



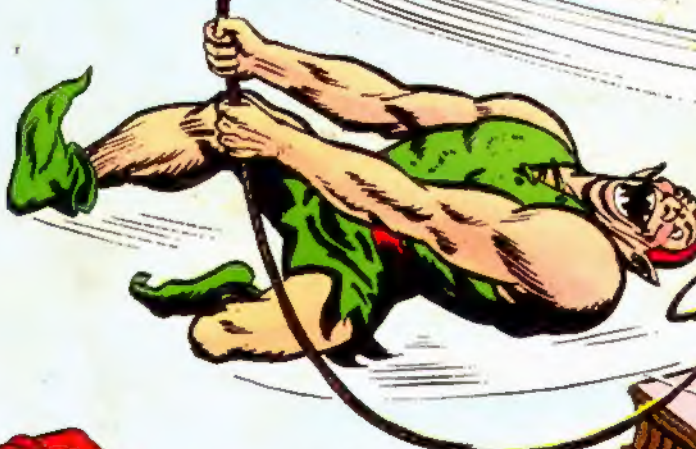
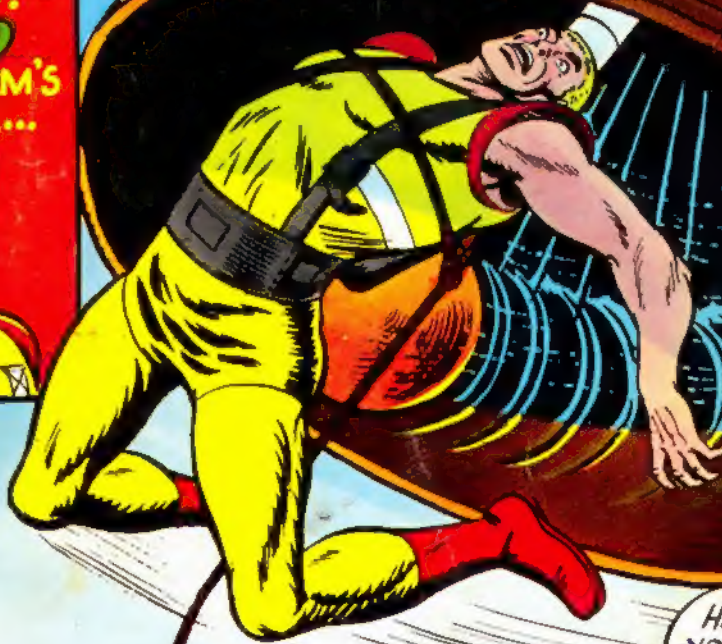
NOV.
NO. 46

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

12¢

THE ANSWER
YOU DEMANDED
TO KNOW:
WHO
IS THE TEAM'S
LEADER...



HA-HA! I WARNED
YOU AGAINST MESSING
WITH ME! YOU'RE
NOT FIGHTING AN
AMATEUR NOW--
YOU'RE FIGHTING
THE GARGOYLE!



CAN YOU IMAGINE?...THEY ARE YOUR G.I. JOES® IN ACTION...RIGHT IN YOUR OWN HOME!

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OFFER GOOD ONLY IN UNITED STATES AND CANADA

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



HERE! A LITTLE
SOMETHING
TO REMEMBER
ME BY!

THAT GRINNING
DEVIL! HE DOESN'T
CARE IF SHE
DIES WITH US!

WATCH THE SKY! WATCH THE ROOFTOPS! THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL SEE HIM-- THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL SEE THE MOST DIABOLICAL, MOST MALEVOLENT MENACE THE CHALLENGERS EVER FOUGHT! LOOK UP! YES, LOOK UP-- AND LOOK OUT FOR...

THE STRANGE SCHEMES OF THE GARGOYLE

ART by Bob Brown
STORY by Bill Finger

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CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



LIKE NIGHTMARISH APPARITIONS ARE THE GARGOYLES—GROTESQUE STONE FIGURES THAT SQUAT ABOVE THE CITY STREET...



SUDDENLY ONE OF THEM MOVES! IT IS HUMAN!

SO I'M UGLY! DOWN THERE, I'D BE AVOIDED...



BUT UP HERE, THE ROOFTOPS ARE MY WORLD! UP HERE, I'M KING! AND WITH ALL MY LOOT, I CAN AFFORD TO SNEER DOWN AT THE PEOPLE BELOW!



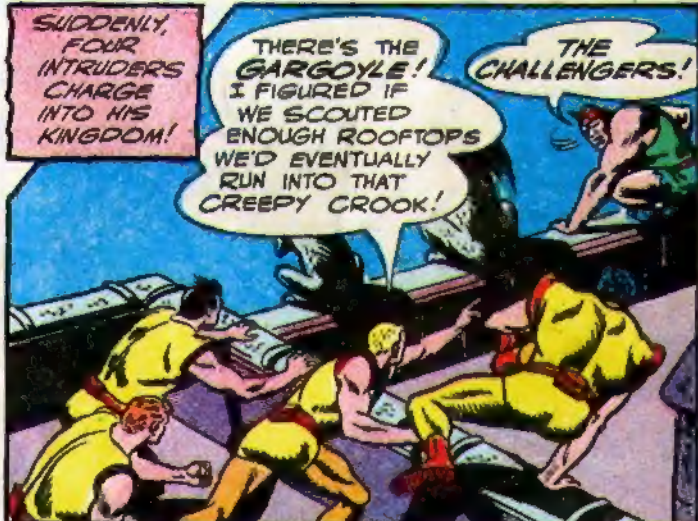
PEOPLE! BAN! THEY LOOK LIKE TINY BUGS! WHY SHOULD I CARE IF I DESTROY A BUG?



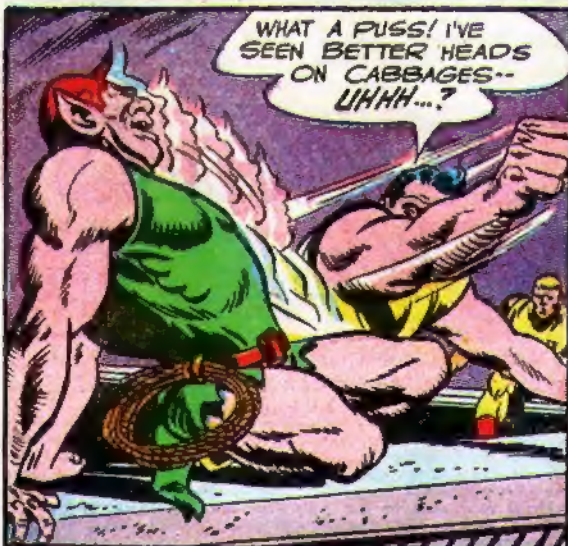
SUDDENLY, FOUR INTRUDERS CHARGE INTO HIS KINGDOM!

THERE'S THE GARGOYLE! I FIGURED IF WE SCOUTED ENOUGH ROOFTOPS WE'D EVENTUALLY RUN INTO THAT CREEPY CROOK!

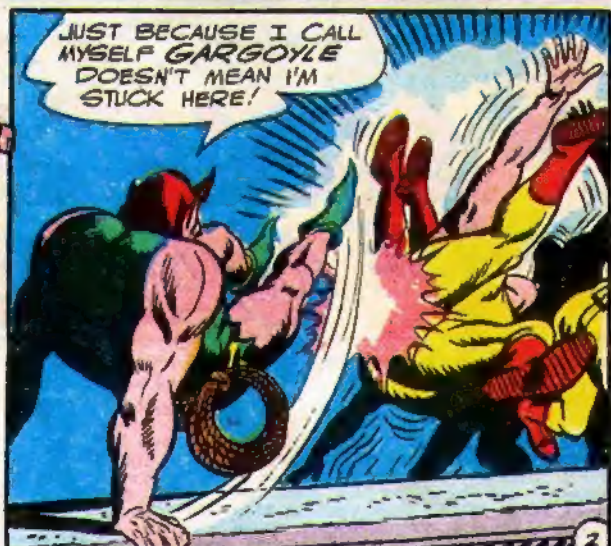
THE CHALLENGERS!



WHAT A PUSS! I'VE SEEN BETTER HEADS ON CABBAGES-- UHHH...?

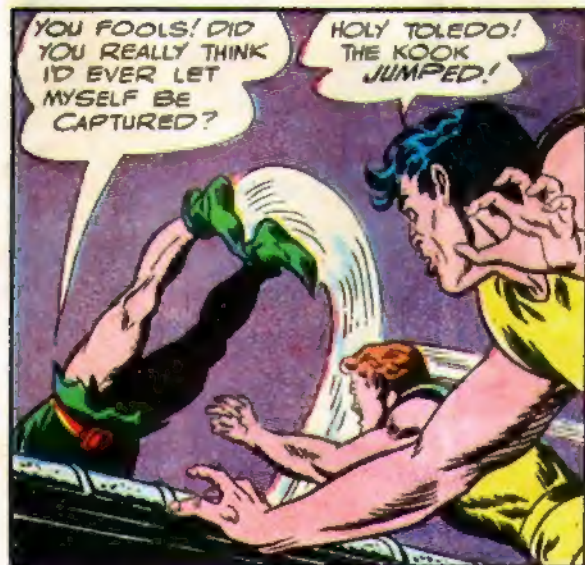


JUST BECAUSE I CALL MYSELF GARGOYLE DOESN'T MEAN I'M STUCK HERE!





CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



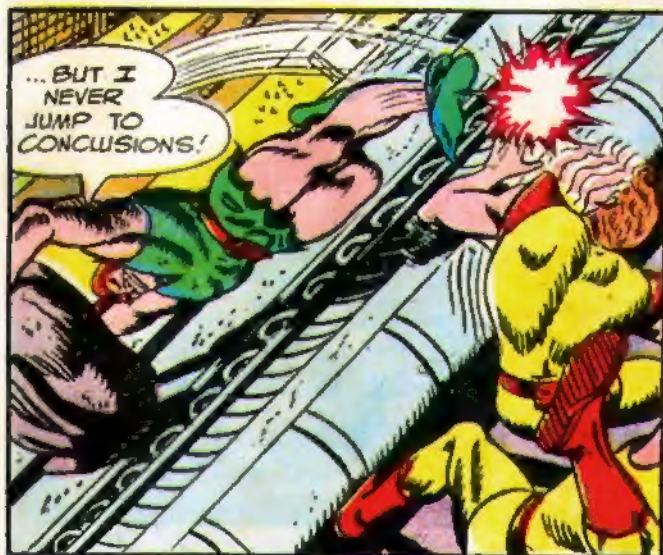
YOU FOOLS! DID YOU REALLY THINK I'D EVER LET MYSELF BE CAPTURED?

HOLY TOLEDO! THE KOOK JUMPED!

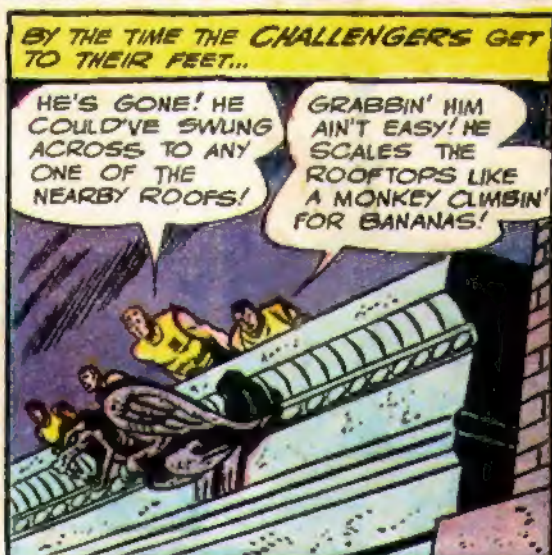


YOU'RE ALIVE--? WE THOUGHT--!

I KNOW! I WANTED YOU TO THINK I'D JUMPED TO MY DEATH!



... BUT I NEVER JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS!



BY THE TIME THE CHALLENGERS GET TO THEIR FEET...

HE'S GONE! HE COULD'VE SWUNG ACROSS TO ANY ONE OF THE NEARBY ROOFS!

GRABBIN' HIM AIN'T EASY! HE SCALES THE ROOFTOPS LIKE A MONKEY CLIMBING FOR BANANAS!



AT THAT MOMENT, NOT FAR AWAY...

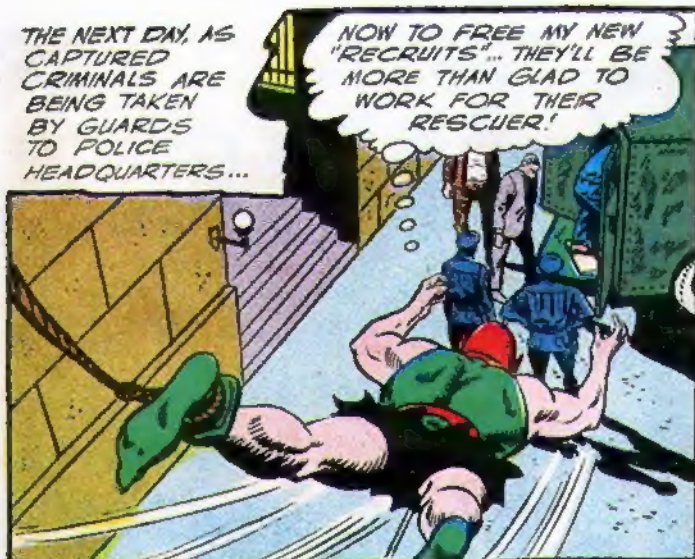
I'LL HIDE DOWN HERE FOR A WHILE, UNTIL THOSE NUISANCES CLEAR OUT!



WHAT...? THAT GIRL-- STARING RIGHT AT ME!



THE NEXT DAY, AS CAPTURED CRIMINALS ARE BEING TAKEN BY GUARDS TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS...



NOW TO FREE MY NEW "RECRUITS"... THEY'LL BE MORE THAN GLAD TO WORK FOR THEIR RESCUER!

SMILEY, YOU KNOW WHERE MY HIDEOUT IS! GET YOUR GUYS THERE!



SURE THING, GARGOYLE! IT'LL BE A PLEASURE!

TSK-TSK! I'M AFRAID I PICKED AN UNSTEADY PERCH FOR YOU! OH, WELL -- YOU DON'T WANT TO LIVE FOREVER, DO YOU?



BY COINCIDENCE, THE CHALLENGERS WERE CHECKING THE GARGOYLE'S CRIMINAL RECORD.



HELP! HELP!

THEY'RE HELPLESS, AND THE OLD CEMENT IS CRUMBLING AWAY!

THAT FIGURE WILL COME LOOSE ANY MINUTE! COME ON! ONLY THE CHALLENGERS CAN DO THIS JOB!

ONCE AGAIN THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN COME UPON THE CRAFTY WORK OF A MALIGNANT MIND! CAN THEY BATTLE THIS NEW DANGER OF THE DEMONIC AND CUNNING GARGOYLE?

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

PUT YOUR NOSE TO THE DOT

(You'll "see" the delicious secret of a Tootsie Pop)



See! There's a Tootsie Roll inside...and hard candy outside. In six scrumptuous flavors too!

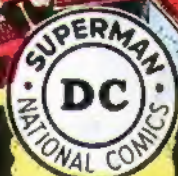
7 plus 4 equals 11!

And 11 is your **LUCKY NUMBER** when you add up the heroes of DC's two great fighting teams...

7 BLACKHAWKS -- 4 CHALLENGERS



A WARTIME FOE RETURNS FROM THE "DEAD", HIS FEVERED BRAIN BURNING WITH VENGEANCE, AS HE CRIES... **"DIE AGAIN, BLACKHAWKS!"**



IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUES!



THE CHALLENGERS BATTLE THEIR WILDEST AND WILDEST FOE--A GHASTLY, GRINNING VILLAIN WHO PLOTS... **"The SINISTER SCHEMES of the GARGOYLE!"**

YES, THEY'RE THE TOPS IN TEAMS!
NOW ON SALE EVERYWHERE!



BE MY GUEST
at WORLD'S
FAMOUS
AMUSEMENT PARK



PALISADES AMUSEMENT PARK N.J.

1/2 MILE SOUTH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE



10 ADDITIONAL
NEW RIDES

ADMIT ONE (1) to
PALISADES
AMUSEMENT PARK, N.J.

GOOD MONDAYS
THRU FRIDAYS
(EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)
until 6 P.M.

FREE
ADMISSION
CIRCUS ACTS
PARKING & 2 FREE RIDES

FIFTH AVENUE
CUDDLE UP

AND
CRAZY CRYSTALS

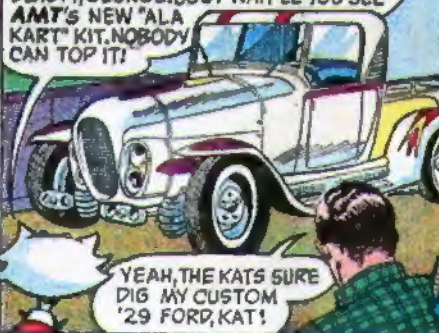
WORTH **85¢**

KAT korners the KING!

The KAT
from AMT

VISITS GEORGE
BARRIS, KING OF
THE KUSTOMIZERS,
IN HIS
HOLLYWOOD
CUSTOM
SHOP...

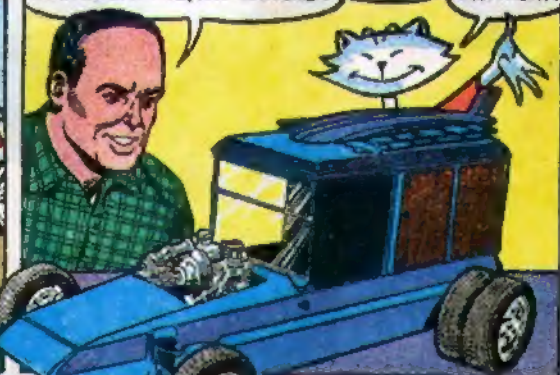
YOUR CLASSIC KUSTOM "ALA KART" IS A
BEAUTY, GEORGE. JUST WAIT'LL YOU SEE
AMT'S NEW "ALA
KART" KIT. NOBODY
CAN TOP IT!



YEAH, THE KATS SURE
DIG MY CUSTOM
'29 FORD, KAT!

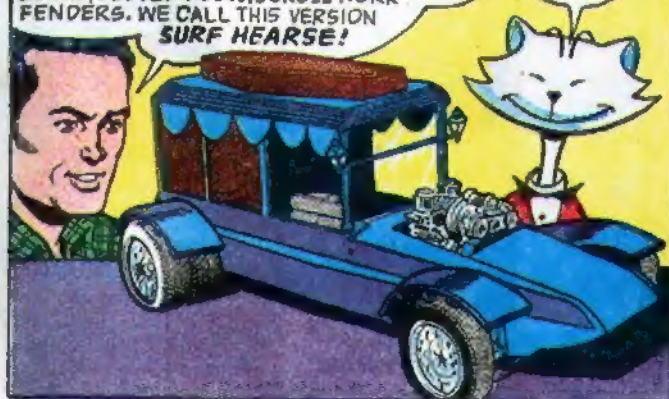
AND HERE'S MY NEWEST AMT KUSTOM
KIT--**SURF WOODY**. HOW'S IT GRAB YOU,
KAT? DOUBLE SLICK TIRES, SUPERCHARGED
COBRA ENGINE, THE WORKS!

GRR-REATT!



AND SEE THE EXTRAS IN THE **SURF WOODY**
KIT--HEARSE LANTERNS, COFFIN-TOP SURF-
BOARD, FLUTED POSTS, SCROLL-WORK
FENDERS. WE CALL THIS VERSION
SURF HEARSE!

THAT'S
WILD.



-- YOU GET ALL THESE
OTHER PARTS, TOO.



FRENCH PHONE



BOTTLE-GLASS REAR WINDOW
PLUS CEMENT-SLAB DECAL FOR
ROOF, MARBLE SLAB DECAL
FOR SIDES, WILD "JOY STICK"
SHIFTER, EVEN AN INSTRUMENT-
PANEL TAPE RECORDER!

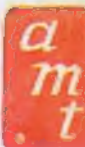
KIDS, GET BARRIS'
NEW AMT CLASSIC
ALA KART \$2.00

KRAZY
MAN!

AND GET AMT'S
SURF WOODY KIT, WITH
ENOUGH EXTRA PARTS
TO TURN IT INTO A
WILD SURF HEARSE.

Only
\$2.00

THE KAT
FROM AMT
AMT CORPORATION
BOX 81,
TROY, MICHIGAN



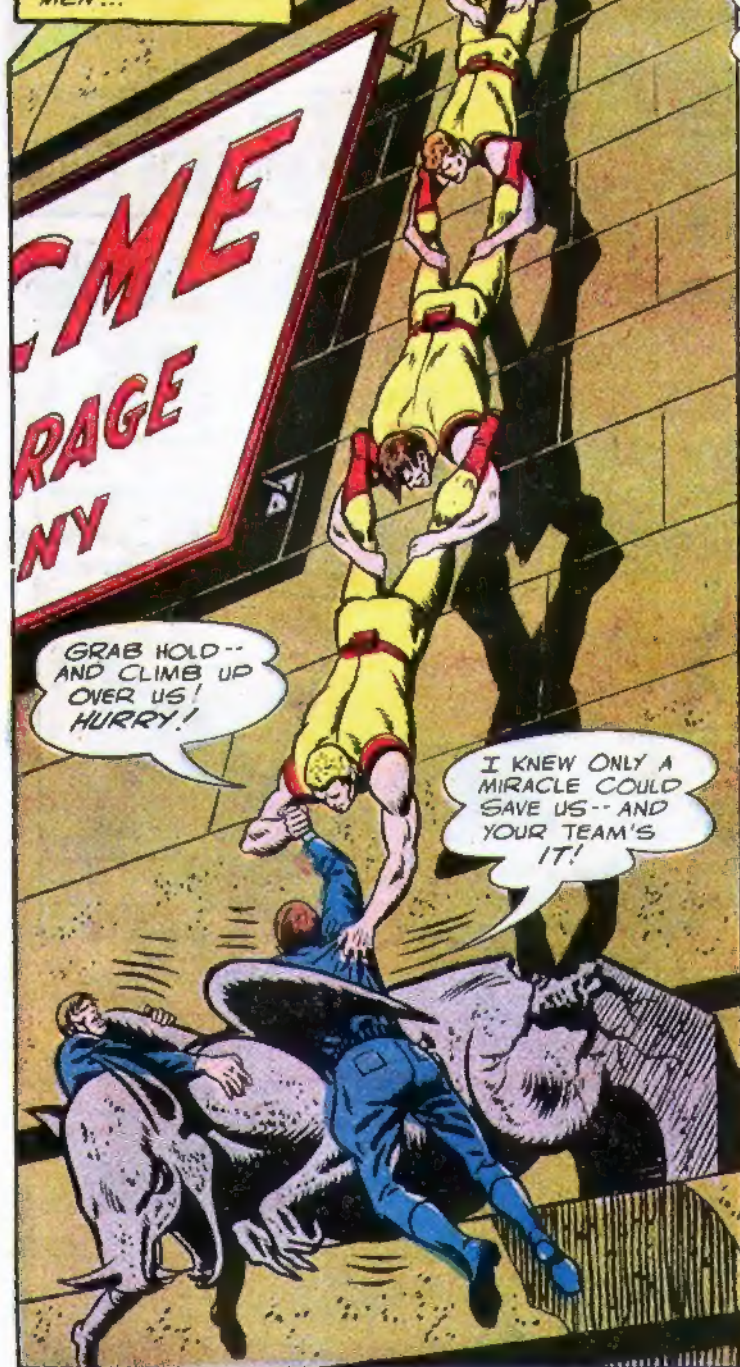


CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



PART 2

MINUTES LATER, WITH ROCKY AS ANCHOR MAN, THE CHALLENGERS FORM A HUMAN CHAIN THAT REACHES DOWN TO THE DOOMED MEN...



GRAB HOLD-- AND CLIMB UP OVER US! HURRY!

I KNEW ONLY A MIRACLE COULD SAVE US-- AND YOUR TEAM'S IT!

TIME RUNS OUT-- BUT ONCE AGAIN DEATH IS CHEATED BY THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN...

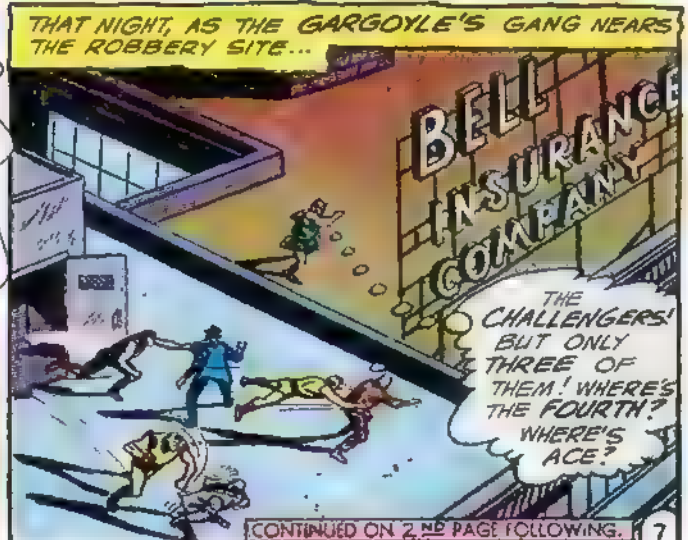
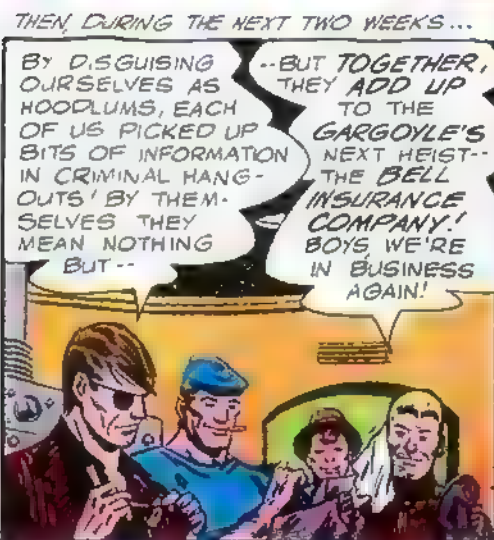
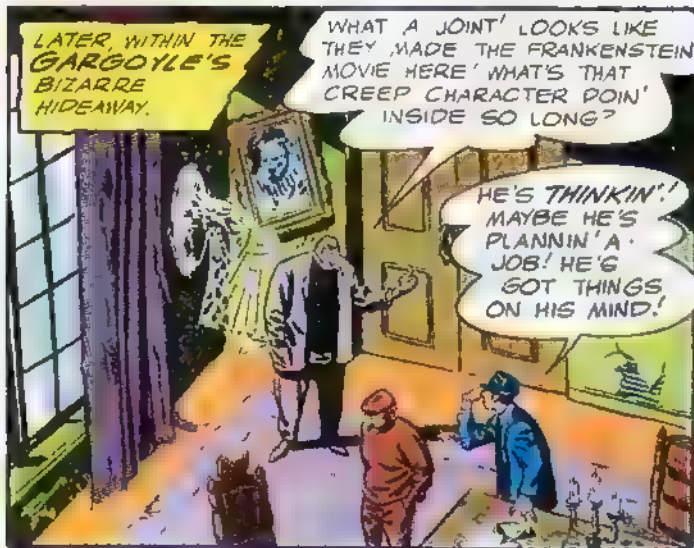


BUT IF ACE COULD SEE HIM LATER THAT NIGHT...

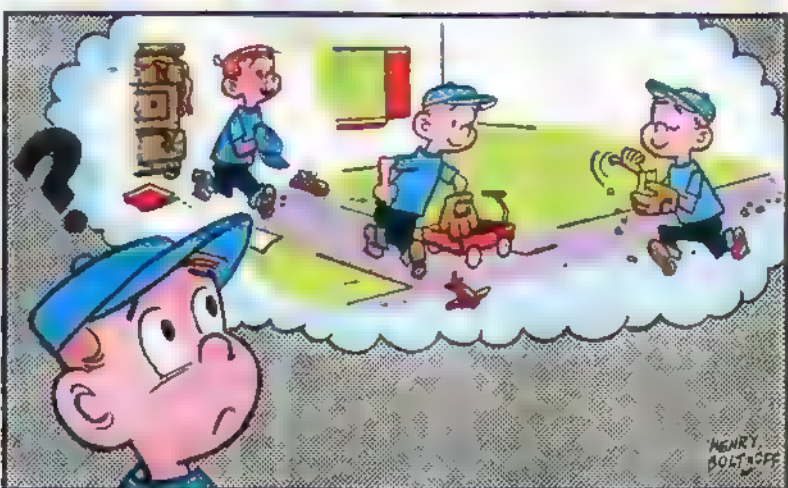
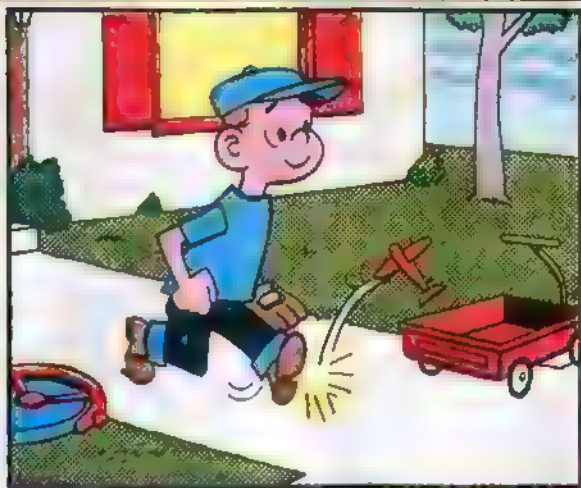
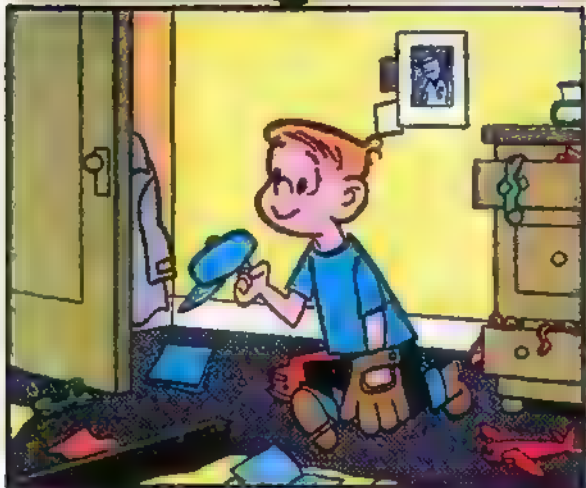
OH, I'M SO GLAD YOU STOPPED BY TO TALK TO ME AGAIN! I JUST REALIZED-- I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME! MINE'S LAURA!

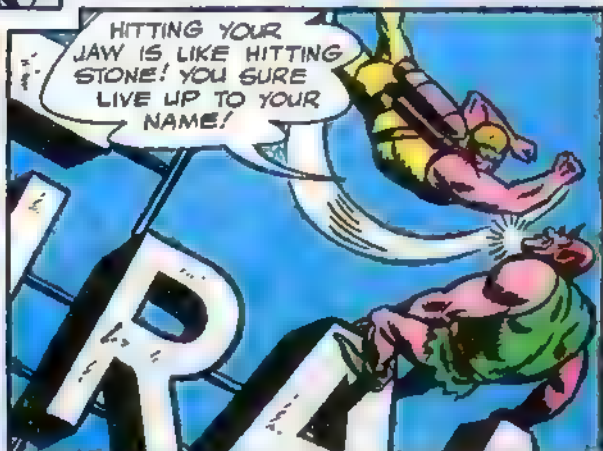
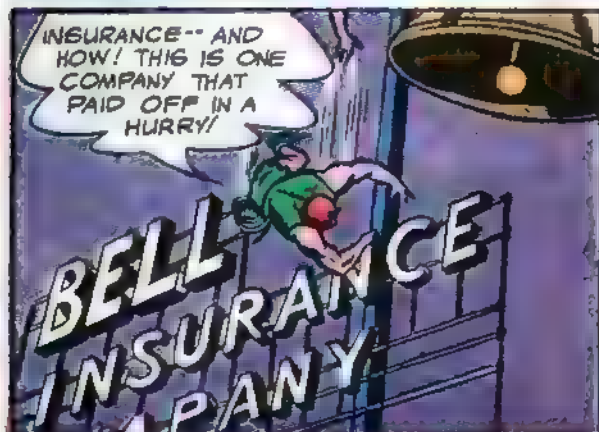
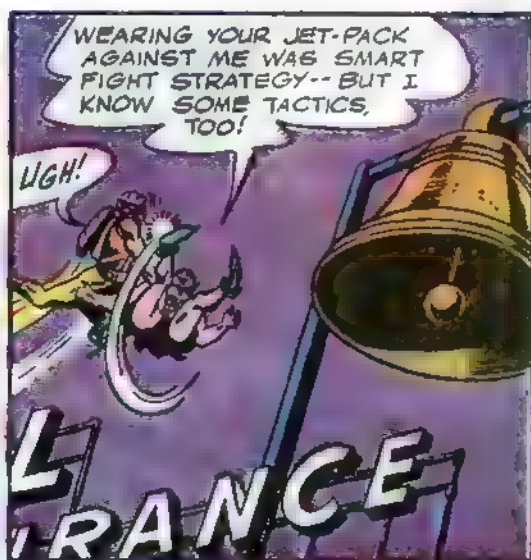
I'M GAR... GARY DOYLE!

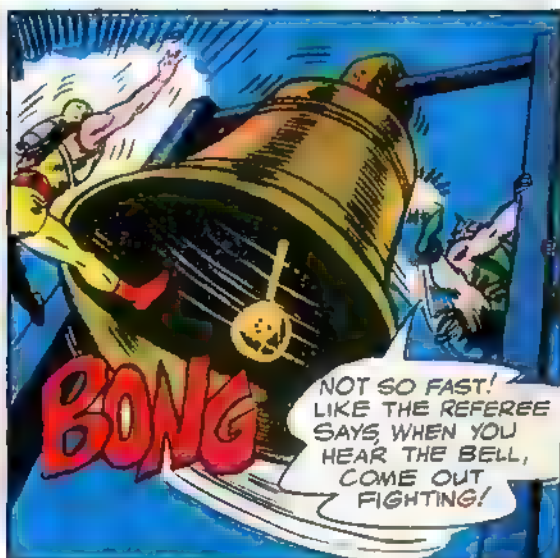
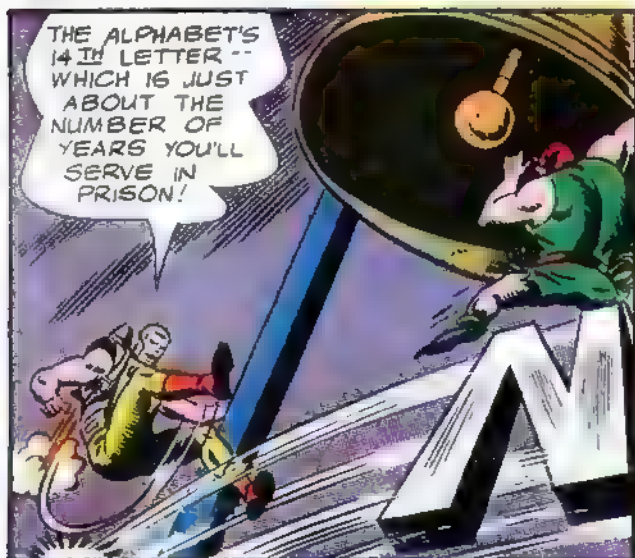




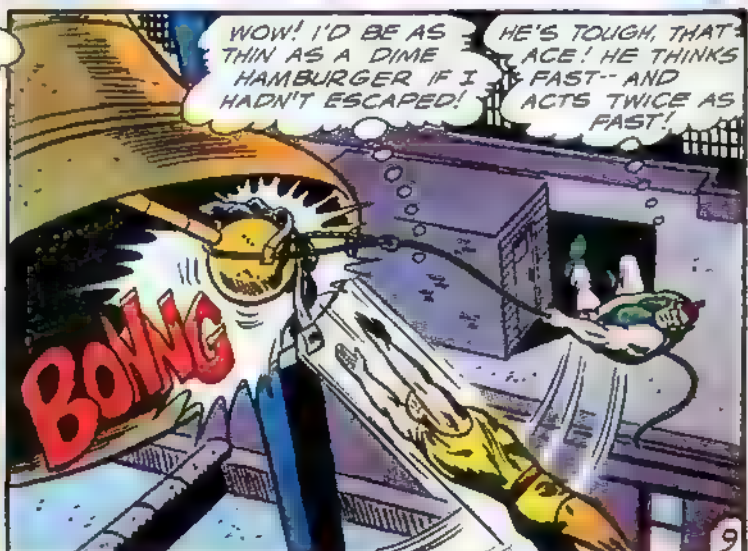
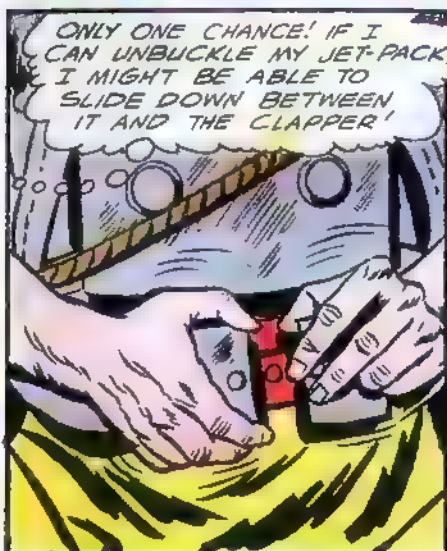
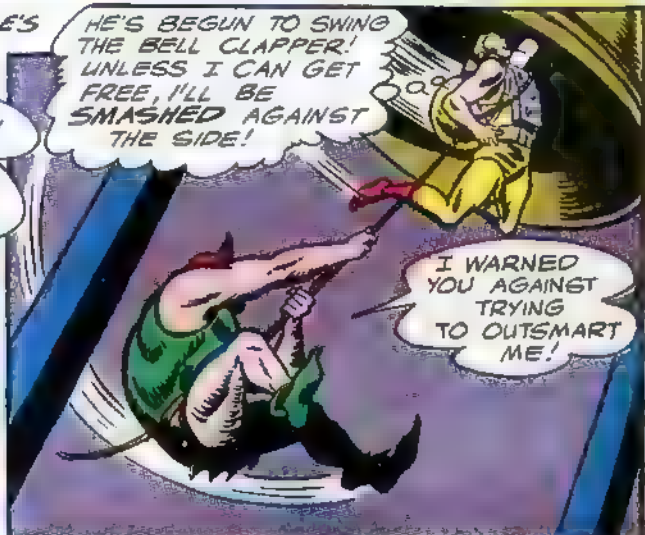
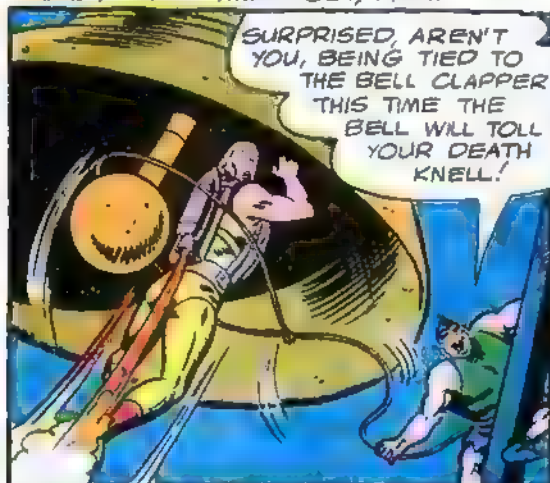
ARE *YOU* A LITTER-BUG?

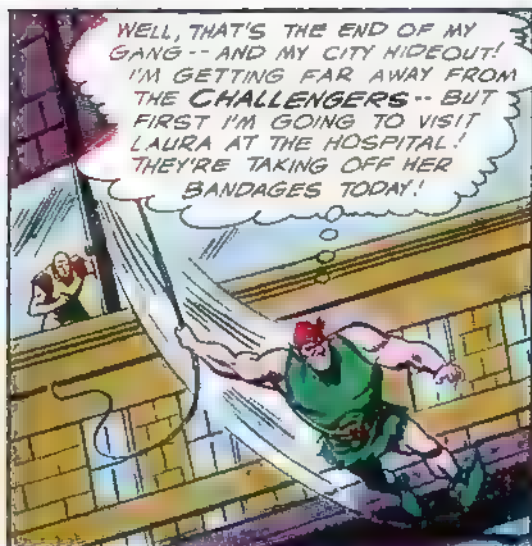






BEFORE ACE RECOVERS, THE GARGOYLE'S READY ROPE WHIPS OUT, AND...





WELL, THAT'S THE END OF MY GANG-- AND MY CITY HIDEOUT! I'M GETTING FAR AWAY FROM THE CHALLENGERS-- BUT FIRST I'M GOING TO VISIT LAURA AT THE HOSPITAL! THEY'RE TAKING OFF HER BANDAGES TODAY!



IT ENDED IN A DRAW, BUT MAN, THAT WAS SOME BATTLE YOU PUT UP, ACE!

YOU DIDN'T DO SO BAD EITHER! WELL, LET'S GIVE THESE PUNKS BACK TO THE POLICE SO THEY CAN BOOK 'EM!

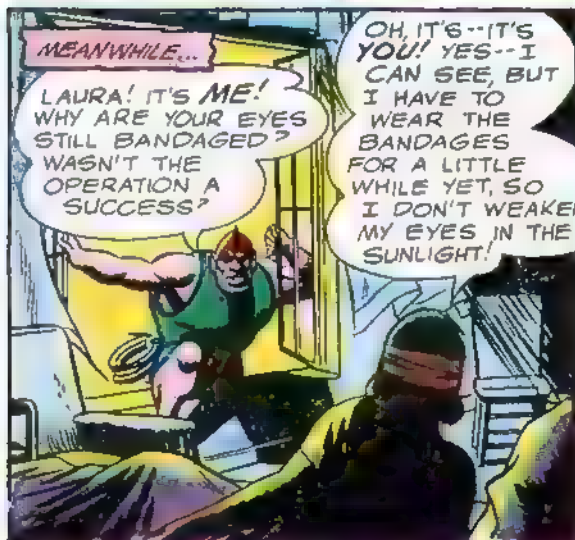


BOOK! THAT REMINDS ME-- THE GIRL! SHE WAS READING WHEN WE INTERRUPTED HER! BUT IT WAS DARK! THAT MEANS THE BOOK MUST'VE BEEN IN BRAILLE! SHE'S BLIND! THE GARGOYLE OBVIOUSLY TOLD HER HE WAS THE BUILDING INSPECTOR-- AND SHE BELIEVED HIM!

SHORTLY AFTER QUESTIONING LAURA'S LANDLADY...



ALL I KNOW IS WHAT SHE TOLD ME-- THAT SOME MAN-- A BUILDING INSPECTOR, SHE SAID-- PAID FOR HER OPERATION! SHE'S AT THE GENERAL HOSPITAL!



MEANWHILE...

LAURA! IT'S ME! WHY ARE YOUR EYES STILL BANDAGED? WASN'T THE OPERATION A SUCCESS?

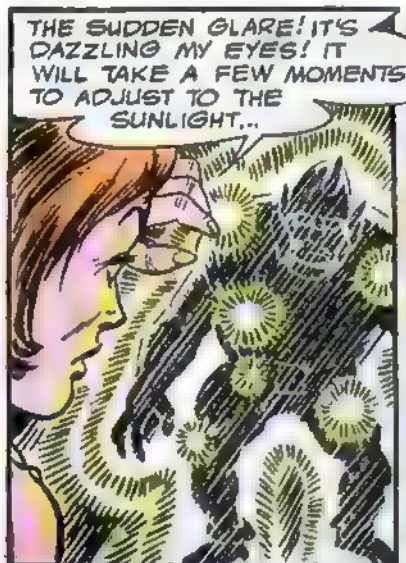
OH, IT'S--IT'S YOU! YES--I CAN SEE, BUT I HAVE TO WEAR THE BANDAGES FOR A LITTLE WHILE YET, SO I DON'T WEAKEN MY EYES IN THE SUNLIGHT!



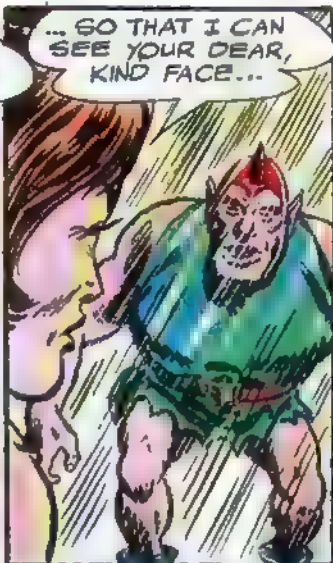
BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, I WANT TO REMOVE THE BANDAGES SO I CAN SEE YOU! I WANT YOU TO SHARE THIS WONDERFUL MOMENT WITH ME!



CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



THE SUDDEN GLARE! IT'S DAZZLING MY EYES! IT WILL TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO ADJUST TO THE SUNLIGHT...



... SO THAT I CAN SEE YOUR DEAR, KIND FACE...

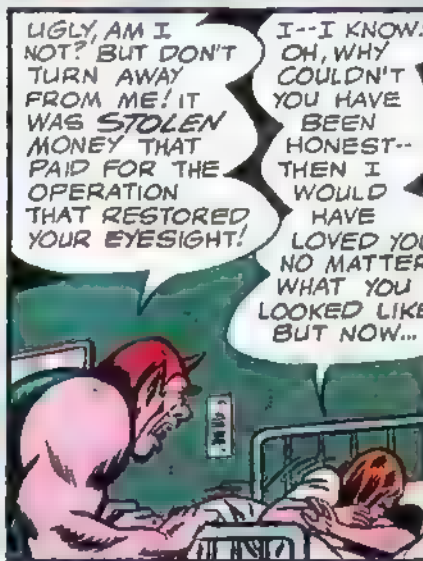


OH--I--I DIDN'T KNOW...

YOU DIDN'T KNOW I WAS SO *UGLY*, EH? I SHOULD HAVE NEVER BELIEVED YOU WHEN YOU SAID IT WOULDN'T MATTER!



WHY, YOU-- YOU'RE THE *GARGOYLE*! I RECOGNIZE YOU FROM THE DESCRIPTION ON THE RADIO!

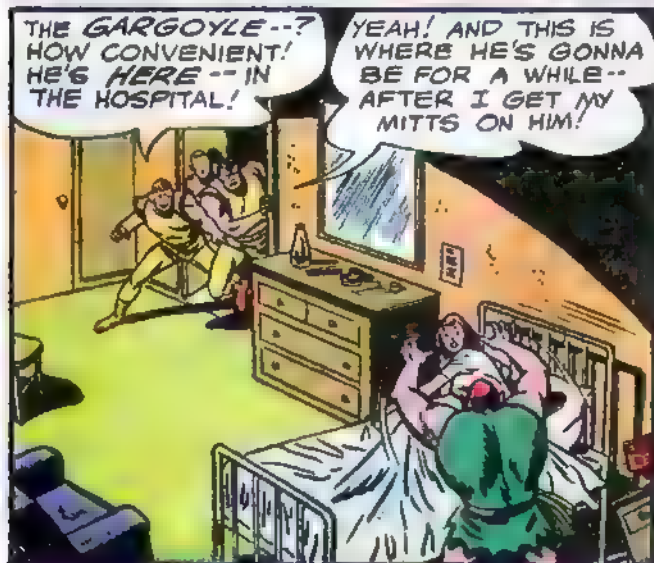


UGLY, AM I NOT? BUT DON'T TURN AWAY FROM ME! IT WAS *STOLEN* MONEY THAT PAID FOR THE OPERATION THAT RESTORED YOUR EYESIGHT!

I--I KNOW! OH, WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE BEEN HONEST-- THEN I WOULD HAVE LOVED YOU, NO MATTER WHAT YOU LOOKED LIKE! BUT NOW...

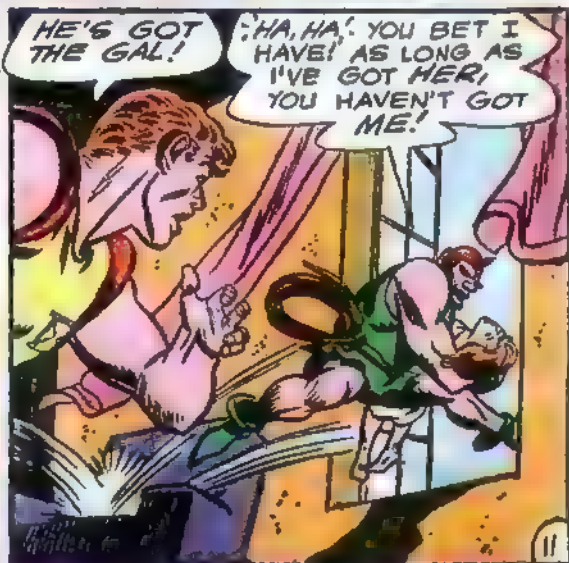


I HAD PLANNED TO TAKE YOU TO MY MOUNTAIN FORTRESS-- BUT YOU'RE AGAINST ME, JUST LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE! I OUGHT TO KILL YOU!



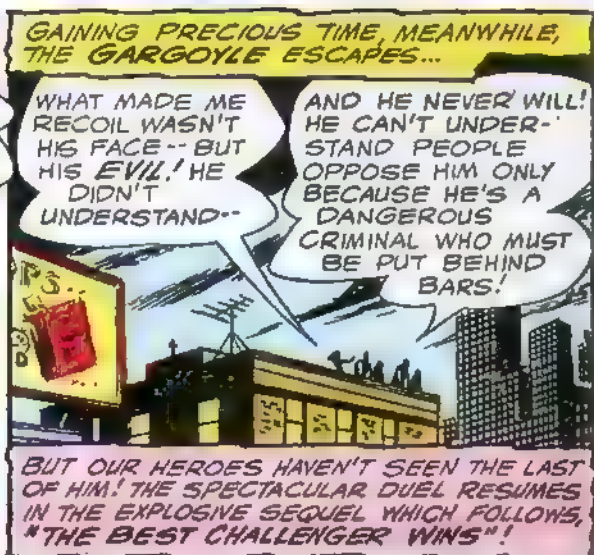
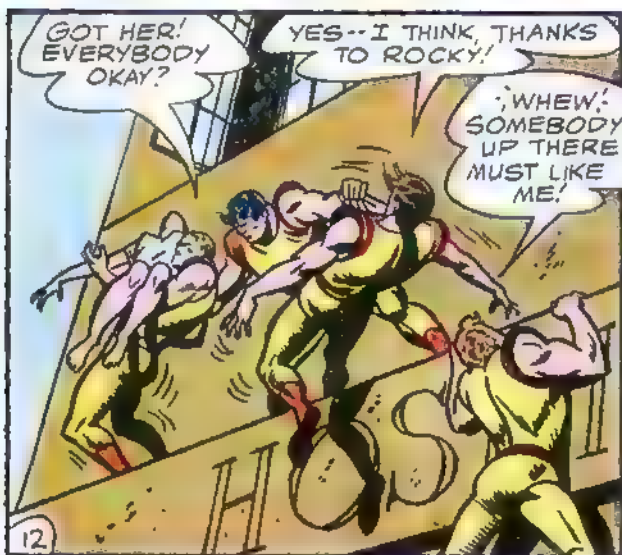
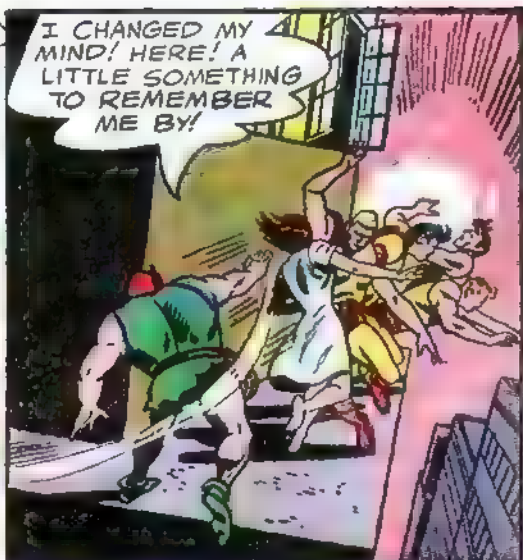
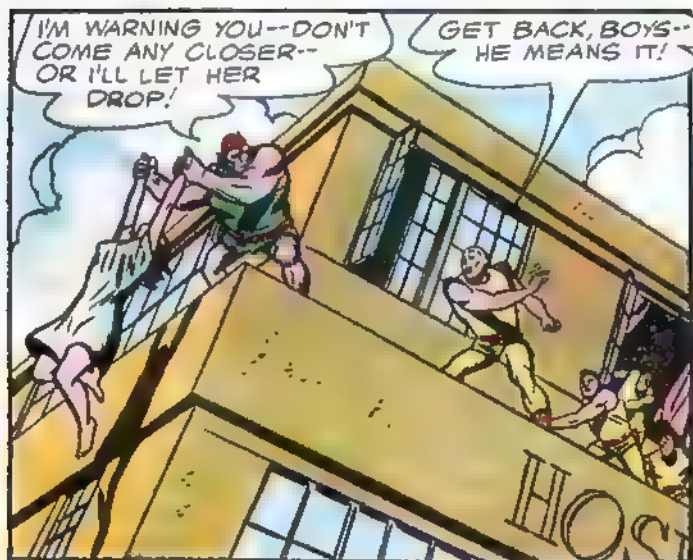
THE *GARGOYLE*--? HOW CONVENIENT! HE'S *HERE*-- IN THE HOSPITAL!

YEAH! AND THIS IS WHERE HE'S GONNA BE FOR A WHILE-- AFTER I GET MY MITTS ON HIM!

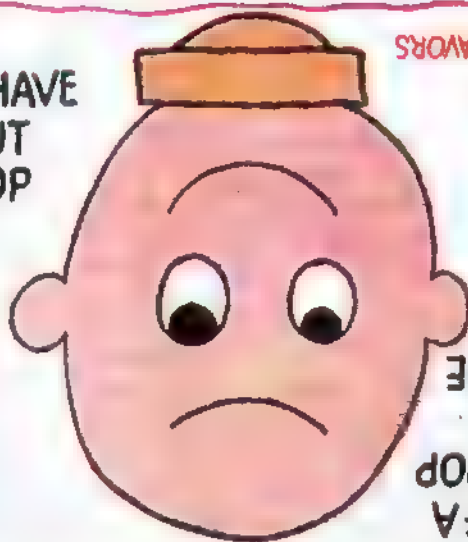


HE'S GOT THE GAL!

HA, HA! YOU BET I HAVE! AS LONG AS I'VE GOT HER, YOU HAVEN'T GOT ME!



WHAT DO YOU HAVE WHEN YOU CUT A TOOTSIE POP IN HALF?



IN 6 SCUMPTUOUS FLAVORS



TWO HALVES OF A WHOLE TOOTSIE POP WITH CHEWY CHEWY TOOTSIE ROLL INSIDE

CHALLENGERS' MAIL CHUTE



Dear Editor: I've seen some wonderfully weird stories before, but "*Curse of the Evil Eye*," which was featured in Issue No. 44 takes the cake. First of all, the cover was simply stunning, and second, the story was one of the best Arnold Drake has turned out. Lastly, I can't let Bob Brown go without a compliment for his highly imaginative and dramatic artwork. I'm still hoping that *CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN* is published more often. —Kenneth Hodl, Chicago, Ill.

Thanks, Ken, and our thanks also to scores of others who wrote, telling us how impressed they were with the issue that also contained "*Ace, the Challenger Who Went Bad*": Scott Thresher, Manchester, Conn.; Harris A. Norton, Neponset, Ill.; Craig Young, Bethlehem, Pa.; Rich Walls, Des Moines; and Paul Caruso, Jackson Heights, N.Y., who submitted the best comments. Those who asked that *Gas Master*, that unique villain, be shown again, will be delighted to know that we're making plans for his revival.

* * *

Dear Editor: The story about "*The Haunted Island*," which had something to do with prehistoric relics reminded me of something I recently read about. Up in Spitsbergen, in the Arctic, paleontologists found a *kiaerspis*, a primitive fish that lived there more than 300 million years ago. It was so delicately fossilized that even its brain, eyes, nerves and minute blood vessels were almost perfectly preserved. —Hope Colman, Williamsport, Wash.

* * *

MAIL CHUTE CHIT-CHAT: "Alert, Clever, Energetic, that's why I vote for Ace to be the team's leader," writes, Richard Leary from New Haven, Conn. And he, along with many other readers, should be pleased to see the second feature in this issue . . . Mid-western fans should be interested in the fact that a new *CHALLENGER*

Fan Club has been organized by Merl Fulsom, who can be reached at 2111 Wabash, Kansas City, Mo. 64127 for full details . . . Another club is being formed by Robert J. Slaker of 136 So. Lincolnway, No. Aurora, Ill. Bob tells us he's named his new kitten, Chall, in honor of guess-who . . . **ASIDE TO William Kelly**, Lebanon, Pa.: write either of the above fans for information on starting your own club.

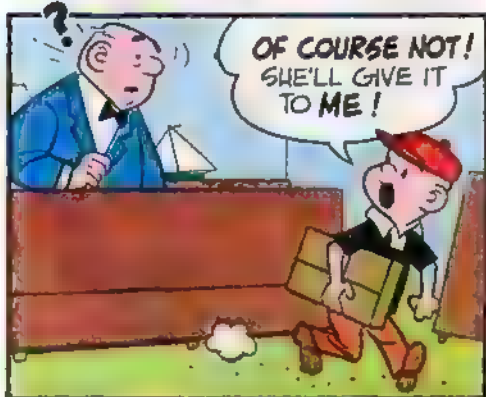
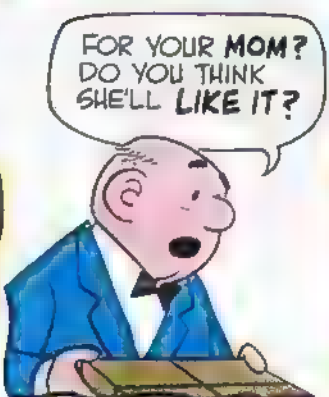
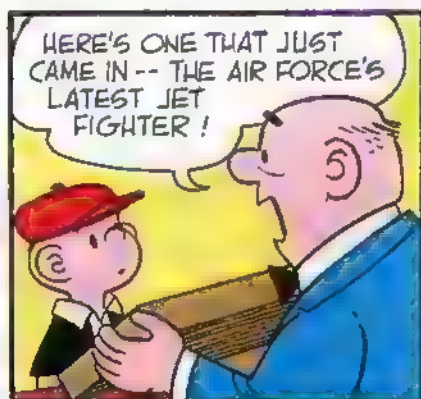
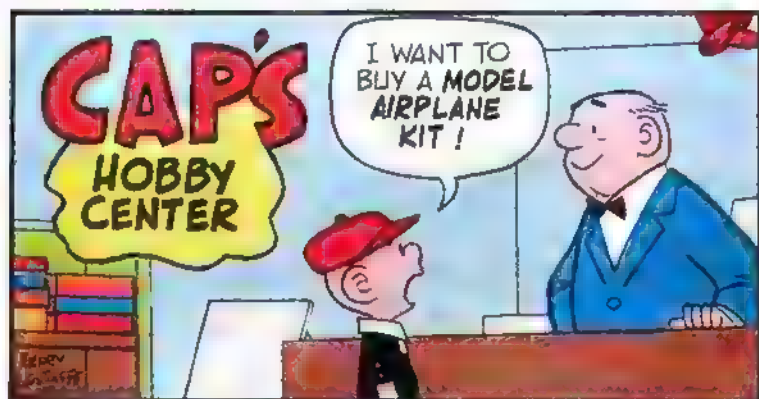
* * *

Jeff Burke, Corpus Christi, Tex., sends us a copy of the lyrics he composed for a new song about the *CHALLENGERS*. Very good, too . . . Doug MacArthur, Fort Erie, Canada, hopes we get around to publishing an 80-page giant. Some day, maybe . . . Bill Black pencils a swift note to tell us that copies of the *CHALLENGERS* are snapped up from the newsstands as soon as they appear in Itazuke, Japan!

"Please bring back the Challenger-Haters," pleads Philip Hersch, Long Island City, N.Y. We have another story on hand, but we'll have to work it into the schedule of future issues.

News from the trading post: Fred Creed, Riverside, Canada, prizes his copies of *CHALLENGERS* too much to part with them, but traders might be interested in these offers: James McGee, 1200 Crestview Dr., Hurst, Tex. is anxious to buy copies 1 through 31, inclusive, for which he will pay 20c each . . . Kent Cochran, 6097 Jefferson St., Gary, Ind., will pay 25c each for issues 1 through 14.

Interesting letters also received from Danny Rose, Seattle; Ralph Kokko, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; Larry Lapka, Jamaica, N.Y.; Kim Young, Dayton, O.; Mike Toth, Portage, Pa.; Fred Krampits, Waltham, Mass.; Tom Gerwotowski, Chicago; Frankie Gargiulo, New Haven, Conn.; Bob Baker, Elrama, Pa.; Todd Jones, Butler, Pa.; and Joe Sierra-Franco, San Francisco.



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THIS IS ACE MORGAN, FIRST MAN ON THE RELAY TEAM THAT'S GOING TO FILL YOU IN WITH THE DETAILS! IT BEGAN WHEN OUR HONORARY MEMBER, JUNE ROBBINS, ENTERED OUR MOUNTAIN-CAVE HEADQUARTERS...

HI, FELLAS!

PLEASE, RED-- LAURA TOLD US HE HAS A MOUNTAIN FORTRESS! NOW THAT WE FINALLY FOUND OUT WHERE IT IS, NO! LET'S TAKE IT A SMART OPERATOR LIKE THE GARGOYLE WILL BE PREPARED FOR A PARACHUTE DROP ON IT!

HI, FELLAS!

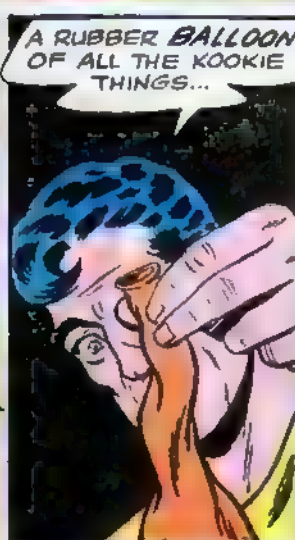
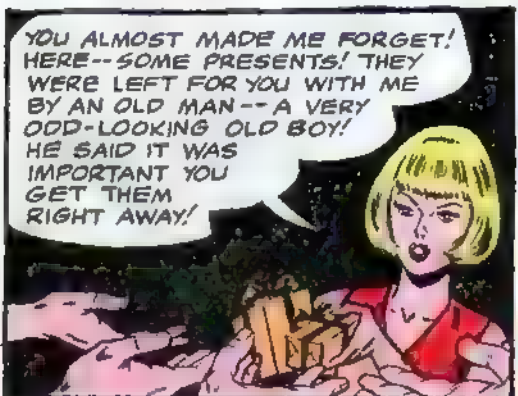
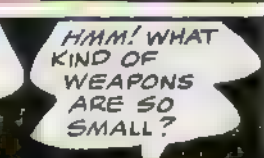
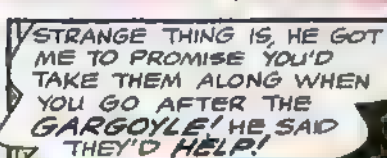
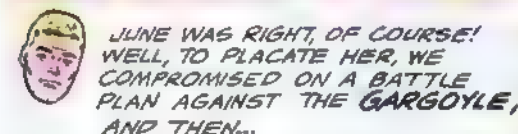
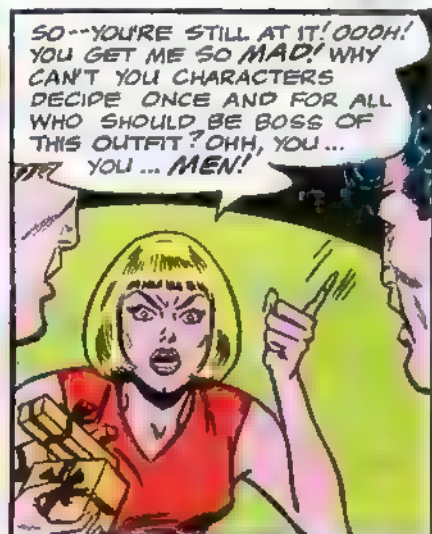
RED'S RIGHT, ACE! THE GARGOYLE WILL HAVE TRAPS RIGGED FOR UN-INVITED CALLERS! BUT MY PLAN WILL--

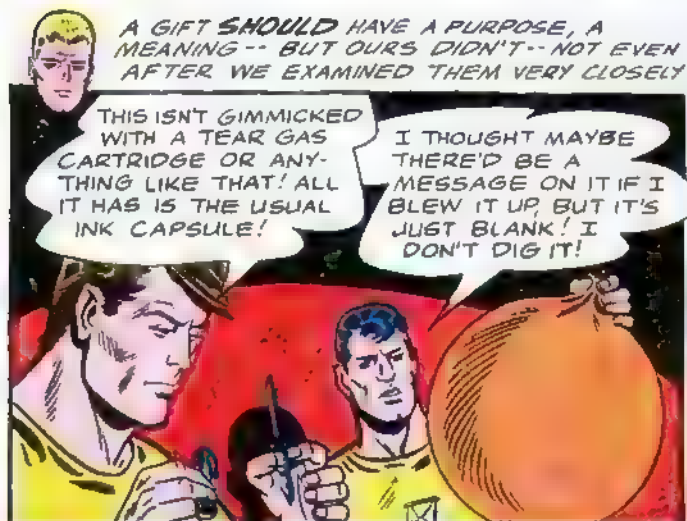
YOUR PLAN? SINCE WHEN ARE YOU CALLIN' THE PLAYS-- EGGHEAD?

EGGHEAD? WHY, YOU MUSCLE-BOUND GOON--

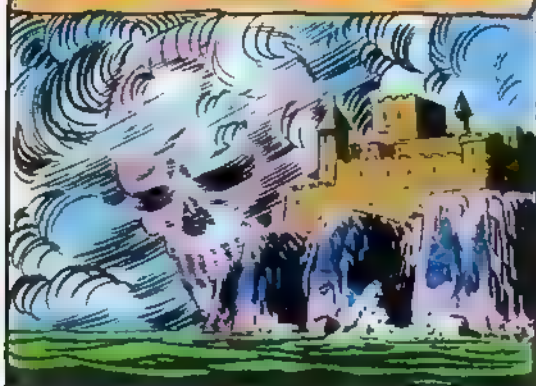
HI, FELL... OH, WHAT'S THE USE?



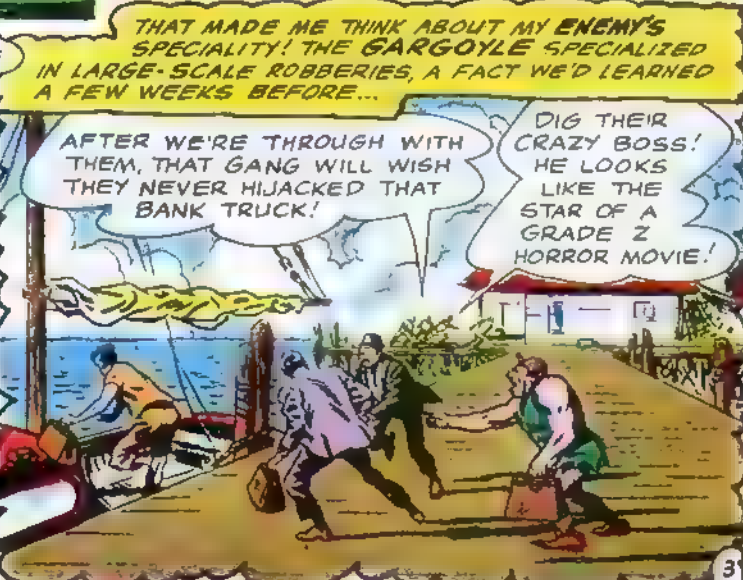




THAT WAS THE SET-UP--FOUR SEEMINGLY SENSELESS GIFTS FOR FOUR MEN ABOUT TO ATTACK A CRIMINAL'S ISLAND FORTRESS! HOW COULD WE KNOW "OLD MAN FATE" WAS ALSO ON THAT ISLAND-- WAITING!



OUR BATTLE STRATEGY WAS SIMPLE--A SIMULTANEOUS ATTACK ON THE FORTRESS BY THE WHOLE TEAM! ME, I'M THE FLYBOY--SO I PILOTED AN EXPENDABLE, OLD TWO-SEATER OVER THE TARGET...



WHAT WITH A LIGHT WIND, WE FIGURED THEY COULDN'T GET VERY FAR VERY FAST ON A SAILBOAT, BUT THEIR BOSS WAS AS SMART AS HE WAS UGLY...

YOW! WHO'D THINK IT WOULD SPROUT WINGS?

DOWN--BEFORE WE SPROUT 'EM OURSELVES! THAT CHARACTER'S GOING TO KEEP US PRETTY BUSY FOR A WHILE!

HE SURE DID! AFTER THAT, HE MANAGED TO STAY ONE JUMP AHEAD OF US! IT WAS ONLY AFTER A LOT OF HARD WORK THAT WE FINALLY LEARNED WHERE HE HID! AND NOW, NOW WE WERE CLOSING IN ON HIM...

BUT SUDDENLY, I WASN'T ALONE IN THE SKY ANY MORE! A WINGED HORROR DETACHED ITSELF FROM THE FORTRESS...

AM I DREAMING--OR HAVING A NIGHTMARE? A--A PTERODACTYL! IT WENT OUT WITH THE DINOSAUR MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO!

AS THAT NIGHTMARE CAME SPLASHING AT ME, I SWUNG ASIDE...

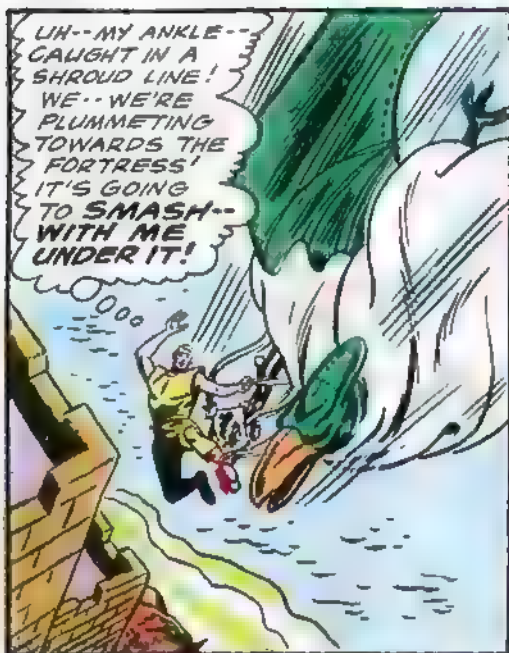
HEY--THAT'S METAL I'M TOUCHING! OF COURSE-- IT'S A REMOTE CONTROLLED MACHINE USED BY THE GARGOYLE TO REPEL AN AIR ATTACK!

I WAS JUST GETTING MY SECOND BREATH WHEN IT BANKED. I KNEW THAT BREATH WOULD BE MY LAST IF I DIDN'T DO SOMETHING INSTANTLY...

MY TIMING HAD TO BE PERFECT! AS IT MADE ITS SECOND PASS, I SUDDENLY YANKED THE SHROUD LINES SO AIR SPILLED OUT OF THE CHUTE! IT COLLAPSED RIGHT AROUND ITS WINGS!

I COULD DITCH MY CHUTE AND DROP INTO THE SEA-- BUT COULD I SURVIVE THE IMPACT? MAYBE NOT-- BUT IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE, IF I MAKE SURE THAT "FLYING LIZARD" CAN'T KAYO ME FIRST!

IT'S AS TANGLED UP AS SUNDAY TRAFFIC! NOW, ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS CLEAR OUT OF HERE!



UH--MY ANKLE--
CAUGHT IN A
SHROUD LINE!
WE--WE'RE
PLUMMETING
TOWARDS THE
FORTRESS!
IT'S GOING
TO SMASH--
WITH ME
UNDER IT!

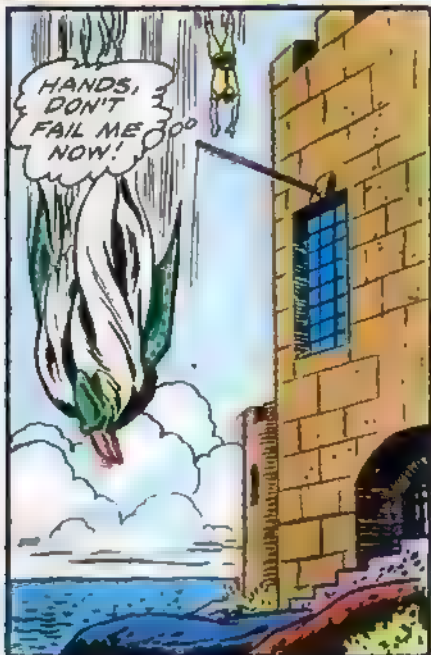


"WHAT I NEEDED WAS A
BLADE--SOMETHING
SHARP TO CUT THAT
LINE! ALL OF A SUDDEN,
I REMEMBERED-- THE
TINY HOUR-GLASS!

I NEVER THOUGHT
THAT THIS LITTLE
GIFT...



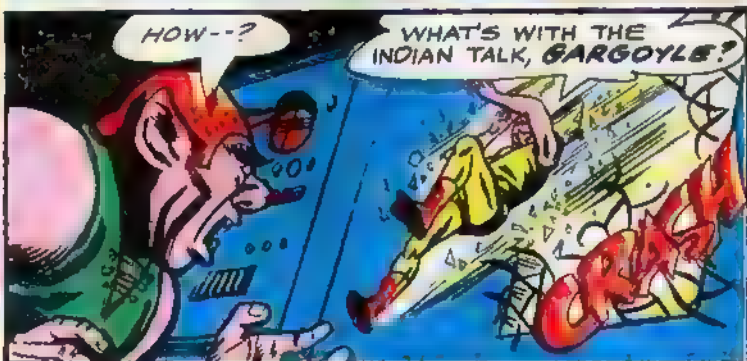
... WOULD SAVE
MY LIFE!



HANDS,
DON'T
FAIL ME
NOW!

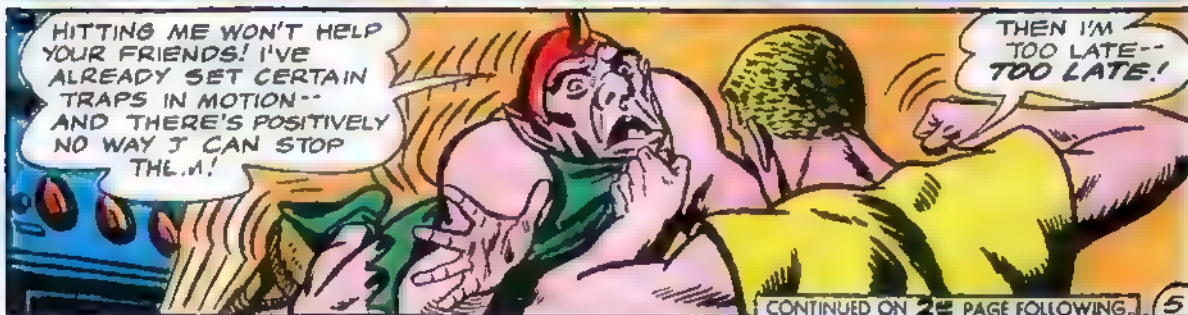


ANY TIME I GET
BORED WITH
BEING A
CHALLENGER,
I CAN ALWAYS
JOIN A CIRCUS
AS A TRAPEZE
ARTIST!



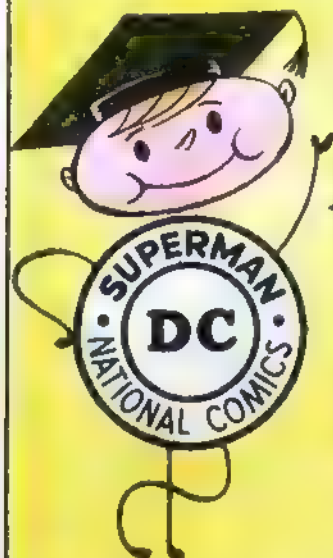
HOW--?

WHAT'S WITH THE
INDIAN TALK, **GARGOYLES**?



HITTING ME WON'T HELP
YOUR FRIENDS! I'VE
ALREADY SET CERTAIN
TRAPS IN MOTION--
AND THERE'S POSITIVELY
NO WAY I CAN STOP
THEM!

THEN I'M
TOO LATE--
TOO LATE!



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CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



I'D BORROWED SOME TIME FOR MYSELF, BUT WHAT ABOUT MY PAIS? MAYBE IT WOULD BE BETTER IF EACH OF THEM TOLD HIS OWN EPISODE IN HIS OWN WORDS! PROF HALEY WILL PICK IT UP FROM HERE...



SINCE MY SPECIALITY IS THE SEA, IT WAS ONLY NATURAL FOR ME TO TRY TO GET INTO THE FORTRESS THAT WAY...

THIS UNDERWATER APPROACH IS SURE TO PAY OFF! THE GARGOYLE CAN'T POSSIBLY SPOT ME DOWN HERE!



SUDDENLY, A SLEEK BULK SLID OUT OF THE SEAWEED FOREST



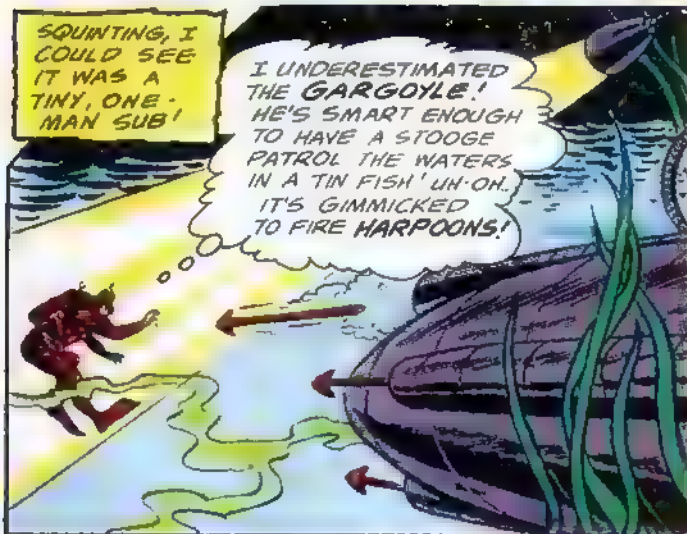
...AND I WAS CAUGHT IN A BALEFUL BEAM OF LIGHT!

UH.. THAT TERRIBLE GLARE.. BLINDING ME!



SQUINTING, I COULD SEE IT WAS A TINY, ONE-MAN SUB!

I UNDERESTIMATED THE GARGOYLE! HE'S SMART ENOUGH TO HAVE A STOOGES PATROL THE WATERS IN A TIN FISH! UH-OH. IT'S GIMMICKED TO FIRE HARPOONS!



MAYBE IF I WASN'T HALF-BLINDED BY THE SEARCHLIGHT, I MIGHT'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET AWAY, BUT...

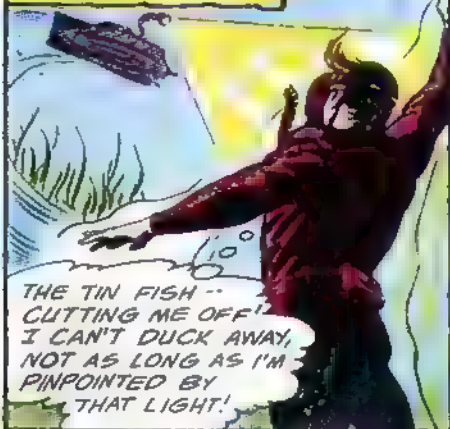
THERE GOES MY OXYGEN TANK!



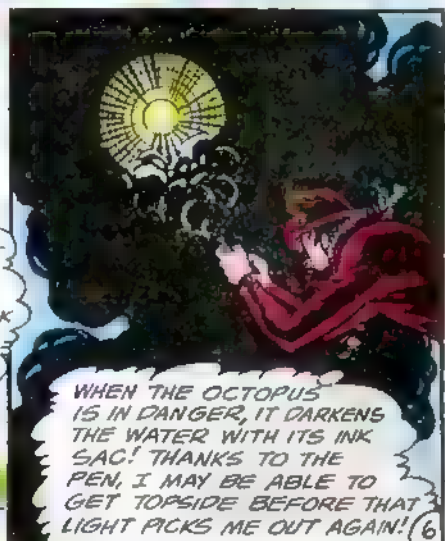
WITHOUT A FRESH AIR SUPPLY, I COULDN'T LAST LONG! I HAD TO GET OUT OF THERE--REACH THE SURFACE...

THE ONLY WAY TO OUTSMART THAT "FISH" WAS WITH A FISH TRICK--AND ALL OF A SUDDEN I REMINDED MYSELF OF THE DIBRANCHIATE CEPHALOPOD...

SURE--THE GIFT--THE FOUNTAIN PEN SHOULD DO IT, AFTER I BREAK OPEN THE INK CARTRIDGE...



THE TIN FISH-- CUTTING ME OFF! I CAN'T DUCK AWAY, NOT AS LONG AS I'M PINPOINTED BY THAT LIGHT!



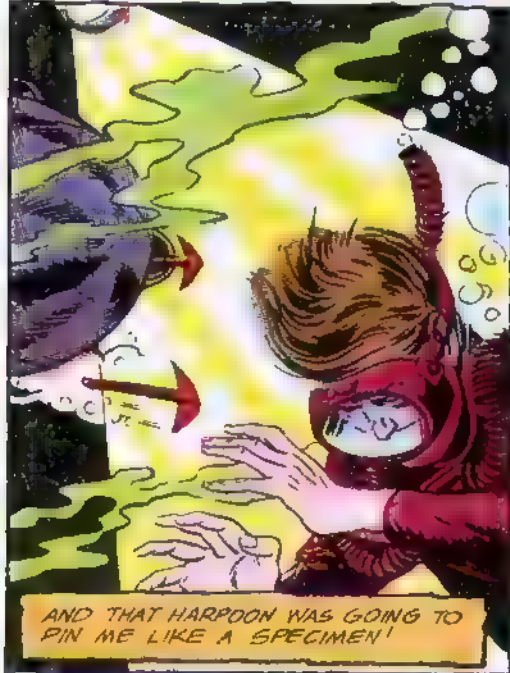
WHEN THE OCTOPUS IS IN DANGER, IT DARKENS THE WATER WITH ITS INK SAC! THANKS TO THE PEN, I MAY BE ABLE TO GET TOPSIDE BEFORE THAT LIGHT PICKS ME OUT AGAIN! (6)



CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

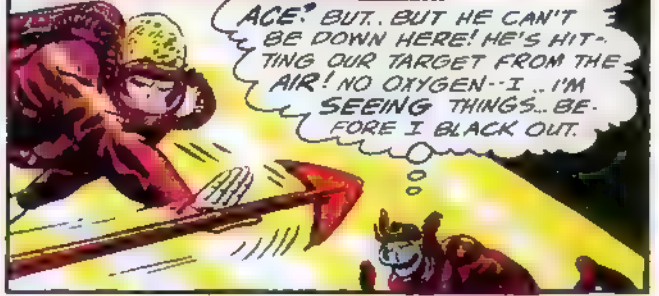


BUT I WAS TOO GROGGY FROM LACK OF OXYGEN TO MAKE ANY SPEED! WHEN THE SUB BROKE CLEAR OF THE INK, IT NETTED ME LIKE A HELPLESS BUTTERFLY.



AND THAT HARPOON WAS GOING TO PIN ME LIKE A SPECIMEN!

THEN SOMETHING--SOMEONE--STRAIGHT-ARMED THAT SHAFT OFF-COURSE!



ACE? BUT... BUT HE CAN'T BE DOWN HERE! HE'S HITTING OUR TARGET FROM THE AIR! NO OXYGEN--I'M SEEING THINGS... BEFORE I BLACK OUT.

AS THAT UNDERWATER KILLER TRIED TO RAM HIM.



... ACE SLID AWAY FROM ITS PROW...

... DARTED TO ITS BACK AND WHIPPED OFF ONE OF HIS FLIPPERS...

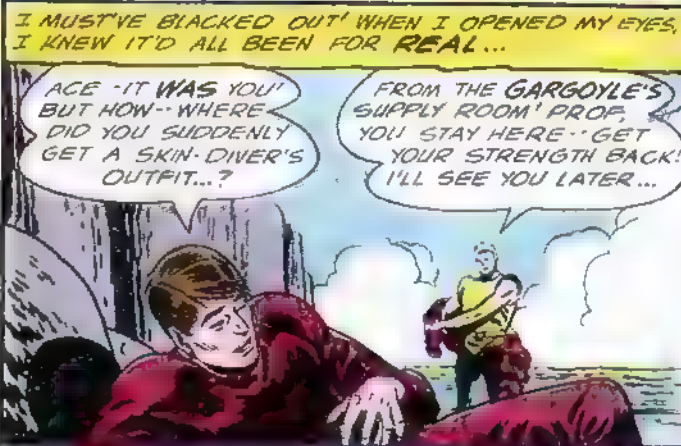
WOW! HE BLINDFOLDED THE SUB'S "EYE"! I'M SAVED NOW! NO, I'M NOT... I'M JUST IMAGINING ALL THIS...



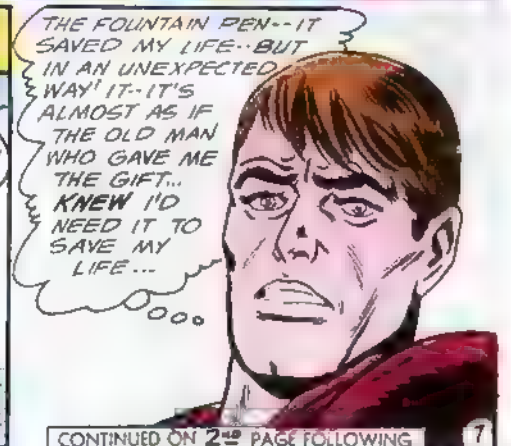
I MUST'VE BLACKED OUT! WHEN I OPENED MY EYES, I KNEW IT'D ALL BEEN FOR REAL...

ACE--IT WAS YOU! BUT HOW--WHERE DID YOU SUDDENLY GET A SKIN-DIVER'S OUTFIT...?

FROM THE GARGOYLE'S SUPPLY ROOM! PROF, YOU STAY HERE--GET YOUR STRENGTH BACK! I'LL SEE YOU LATER...



THE FOUNTAIN PEN--IT SAVED MY LIFE--BUT IN AN UNEXPECTED WAY! IT--IT'S ALMOST AS IF THE OLD MAN WHO GAVE ME THE GIFT... KNEW I'D NEED IT TO SAVE MY LIFE...



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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*"THE DAY SUPERMAN
BETRAYED BATMAN!"



*"SUPERMAN
and BATMAN'S
GREATEST FOES!"

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ROOM TO SHOW YOU
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of SUPERMAN
and BATMAN!"**
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MUSKETEERS!"**
***"CONTEST
of HEROES!"**

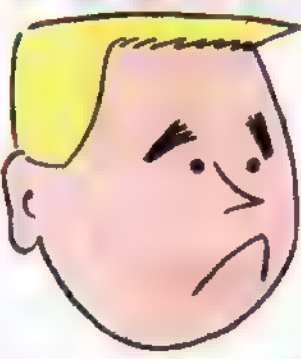
FOOEY!



BAR CANDY
DISAPPEARS IN
A FEW BITES



FOOEY!



BAG CANDY
DISAPPEARS IN
A FEW GULPS



CHEWY!



CHEWY CHEWY
TOOTSIE ROLLS
LAST A LONG TIME





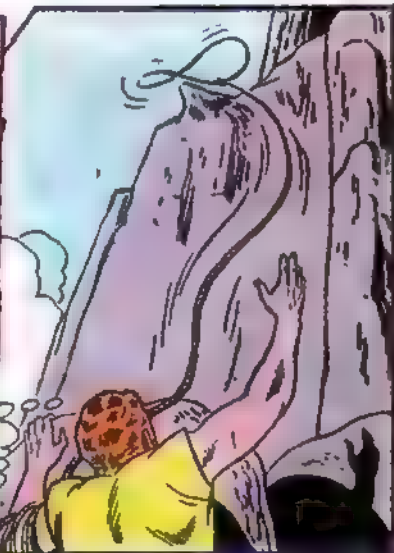
RED RYAN
TAKING
OVER NOW,
PICKING
UP WHERE
PROF
LEFT OFF!
HERE'S
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO ME...

WITH THE GARGOYLE ROOST-
ING ON TOP OF A MOUNTAIN,
I PLANNED TO PENETRATE
THE FORTRESS MY WAY! I'M
THE MOUNTAIN GOAT OF THE
TEAM...



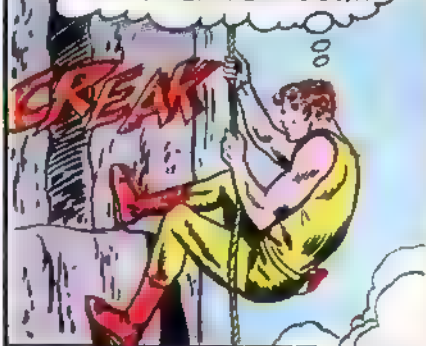
I INCHED UP,
USING THE
HAND
TRAVERSE
TECHNIQUE
WHERE I
COULDN'T
GET ANY
TOEHOLDS-
THEN I SAW
AN OVER-
HANG OF
ROCK
ABOVE...

ONCE I SNAG
IT, I'LL MAKE
BETTER TIME!



AS I HAULED MYSELF UP THE
ROPE, I HEARD A RASPING
SOUND...

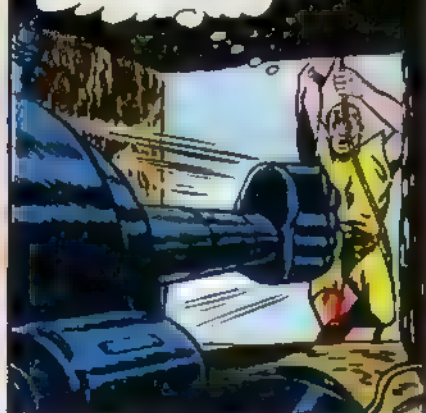
THE MOUNTAIN--STARTING
TO OPEN... GOT TO MOVE
UP FAST... OR IT'LL BE A
ONE-WAY EXPRESS DOWN!



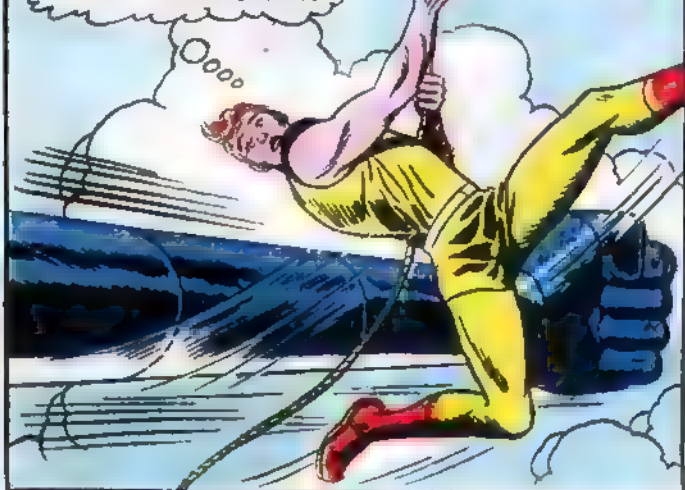
YEOW! WHAT'S
THAT? A DOOR?



A GIANT METAL HAND
COMING OUT! IT'S SURE
NOT GONNA GREET
ME!... GOTTA SWING
OUT OF RANGE...

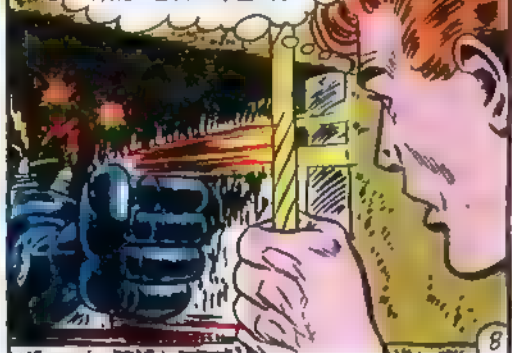


--BEFORE IT FILEDRIVES
ME OUT OF THIS WORLD!3

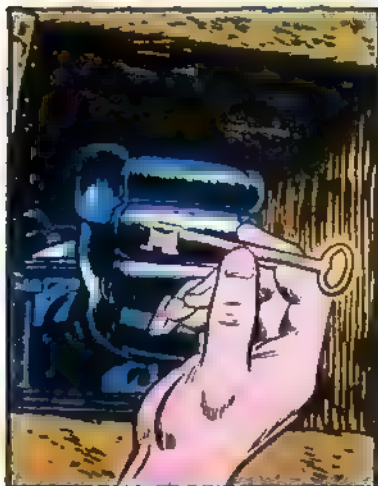


AS THE FIST RETRACTED, I GOT A
GLIMPSE INSIDE THE APERTURE...

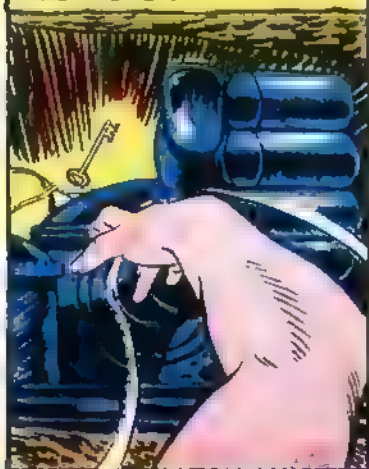
SO THAT'S THE MOTOR
THAT WORKS THE 'HAND'... I'VE
GOT A PRETTY GOOD IDEA
HOW TO GET PAST
THIS BARRIER!



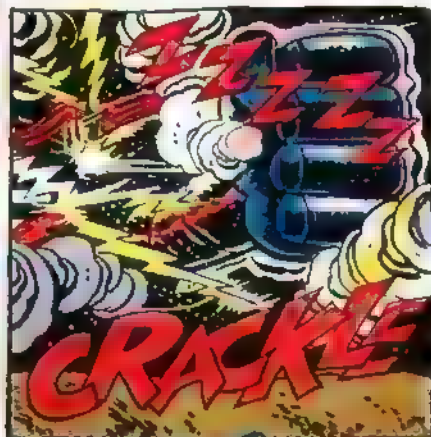
I DUG OUT MY GIFT--
THE KEY...



...TOOK CAREFUL AIM--AND
PITCHED IT RIGHT AT
THE MOTOR...



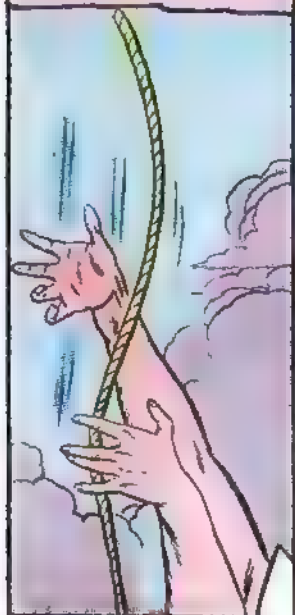
STRIKE OUT! ALL I NEEDED TO
SHORT-CIRCUIT IT WAS A
CHUNK OF METAL--AND THAT
KEY WAS IT!



SUDDENLY,
THE MOTOR
EXPLODED--
THE IRON
HAND WAS
BLOWN OUT--
AND I WAS
RIGHT IN
ITS WAY!



HANDS! AN IRON
HAND HAD HIT ME--
AND NOW MY OWN
HANDS WERE SLIDING
FROM MY ROPE...



WHEN ANOTHER
HAND--A STRONG
ONE--SUDDENLY
CAME FROM
NOWHERE!



RELAX, FELLA!
YOU CAN'T WIN
'EM ALL--AND
I JUST
HAPPENED TO
BE PASSING
BY!



THAT KEY
LOOKED
USELESS,
BUT IT
HAD A
DARNED
GOOD
USE,
AFTER
ALL!
STRANGE
ISN'T IT?

YOU
TOOK A
POWERFUL
CLOUT
ON THE
NOGGIN',
SO DON'T
THINK
SO HARD,
RED!
MATTER
OF FACT,
MAYBE
YOU'D
BETTER SIT
OUT THE
REST OF
THIS
JOB!





HI, CATS!
WAIT'LL
YOU DIG
THE CRAZY
BIT I,
ROCKY
DAVIS,
HAD TO GO
THROUGH.

I'M NO BIG BRAIN, BUT I'M
PRETTY COOL IN THE MUSCLE
DEPARTMENT! I FIGURED
THE BEST WAY TO BEAT
THE GARGOYLE WAS TO
MAKE A TOUCHDOWN RIGHT
OVER HIS FRONT DOOR!



ANYTHING THAT
GETS IN MY WAY
BETTER MOVE OUT
FAST!

THAT MUST'VE BEEN
JUST WHAT THAT
GORILLA WAS THINKIN'
WHEN HE SPOTTED ME.

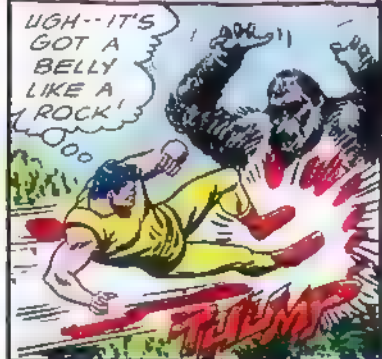
MAN, WILL YOU TIE
THAT? THE
GARGOYLE'S GOT
A PET APE FOR
A SENTRY! IS
THIS GONNA
BE A BLAST!



I KNEW I COULDN'T GET IN
CLOSE TO GIVE KING KONG'S
KID BROTHER THE OL' ONE-
TWO WITHOUT WINDIN' UP
FOR THE FULL COUNT MYSELF,
SO I TRIED TO BRING HIM
DOWN ANOTHER WAY

I SIDESTEPED HIS LUNGING,
POWERFUL ARMS FOR A
KARATE CHOP

"I TOOK A CHANCE, SLIPPIN' IN
FOR A BONE-CRUSHIN' UPPER-
CUT, BUT NOTHIN' WORKED--
AND I MEAN NOTHIN'!"



UGH--IT'S
GOT A
BELLY
LIKE A
ROCK!



YEOW! ALMOST
BROKE MY HAND
OFF AT THE WRIST!

TWACK



THAT DOES IT! I
THOUGHT I HAD A
LOT OF AMMUNITION--
BUT ALL THEY WERE
WERE **BLANKS!**



RRRR



MY ANKLE!
MUST'VE
BROKEN IT
WHEN I
LANDED!
CAN'T STAND
UP... WHAT
DO I DO
NOW? HOW
DO I FIGHT
THAT HAIRY
KOOK?

THUMP THUMP THUMP

ME, I DON'T GET MANY BRAIN WAVES, BUT I GOT ME A FLASH! YEAH--I REMEMBERED THAT GIFT--THE BALLOON! MAN, THIS WAS GONNA BE FROM 'WAY OUT...



I WORKED FAST-- SNAPPED OFF WOOD FROM A FALLEN BRANCH TO SHAPE IT, AND TIED THE BALLOON TO IT...



THEN I SNAGGED A ROCK AND I WAS READY WITH MY SLINGSHOT--READY TO MAKE LIKE DAVID AND GOLIATH!

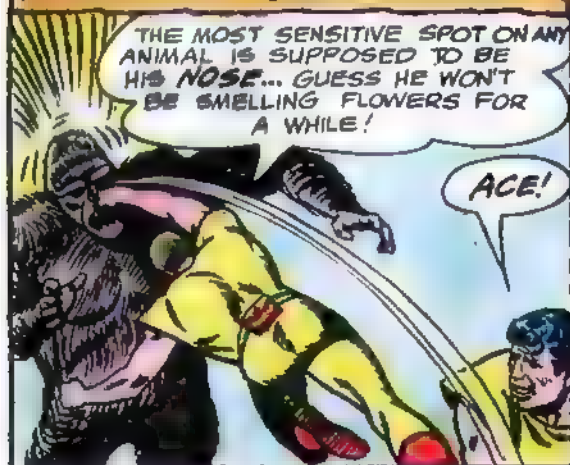


THAT GORILLA WAS REALLY TAGGED...

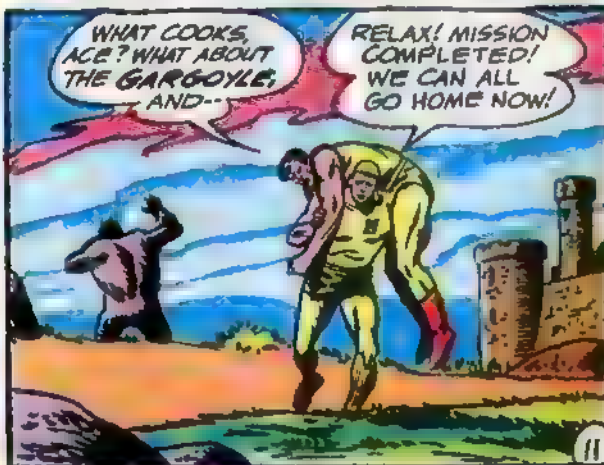
...YEAH... HE WAS TAGGED-- BUT HE WASN'T OUT! HE KEPT RIGHT ON COMIN', AS IF FINISHIN' ME WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING IN THE WHOLE WORLD!



THEN SOMETHIN'! SOMEBODY FLASHED BY ME-- AND ALL OF A SUDDEN THAT APE WAS HIT BY A GUIDED MUSCLE!



HE KNEW HE'D MET HIS MATCH! YOWLIN' WITH PAIN, HE TOOK OFF LIKE HE HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH A DOC FOR A NOSE JOB...



LATER, BACK AT CHALLENGER MOUNTAIN, WE CHECKED OUT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED TO US...



THE WAY THOSE GIFTS SAVED OUR LIVES--IT'S ALMOST AS IF OUR UNKNOWN DONOR WAS OLD MAN DESTINY--FATE...

FATE, MY FOOT! THOSE GIFTS WERE MY IDEA!

JUNE!



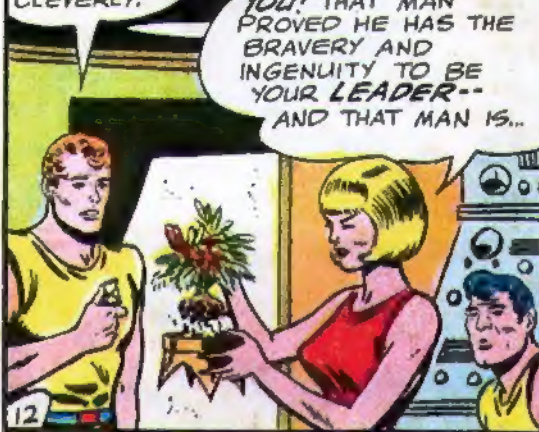
YOU BOYS SQUABBLED SO MUCH ABOUT WHO SHOULD GIVE ORDERS, IT SEEMED TO ME WHOEVER HAD THE KNOW-HOW TO USE HIS GIFT BEST, SHOULD AUTOMATICALLY BE DECLARED THE LEADER!

BUT YOU COULDN'T KNOW WE'D USE THE GIFTS AS WE DID--



TRUE--BUT I COULD COUNT ON YOU USING YOUR WITS WHEN YOU RAN INTO TROUBLE!

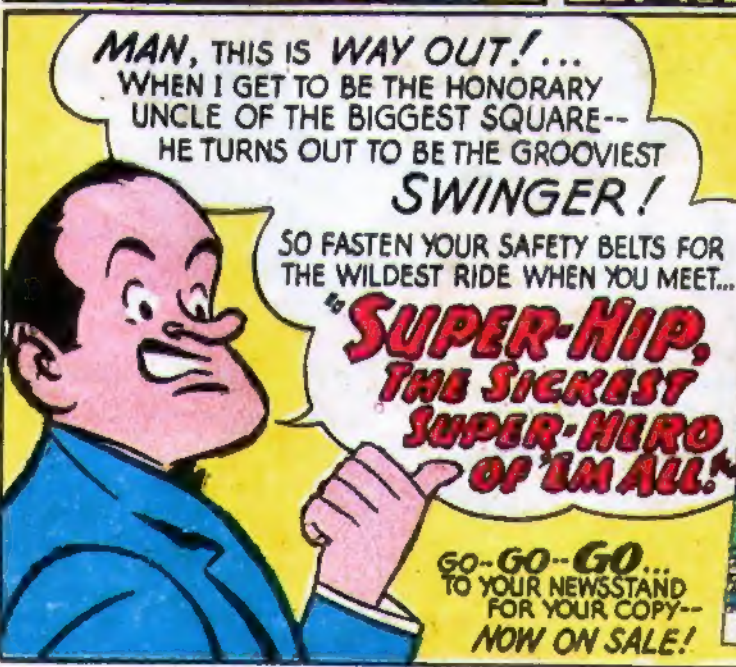
BUT EACH OF US USED HIS GIFT CLEVERLY!



SURE--BUT THREE OF YOU WOULD'VE DIED IF ONE CHALLENGER HADN'T SAVED YOU! THAT MAN PROVED HE HAS THE BRAVERY AND INGENUITY TO BE YOUR LEADER--AND THAT MAN IS...



ACE!



MAN, THIS IS WAY OUT!... WHEN I GET TO BE THE HONORARY UNCLE OF THE BIGGEST SQUARE-- HE TURNS OUT TO BE THE GROOVIEST SWINGER!

SO FASTEN YOUR SAFETY BELTS FOR THE WILDEST RIDE WHEN YOU MEET... **"SUPER-HIP, THE SICKEST SUPER-HERO OF 'EM ALL."**

GO--GO--GO... TO YOUR NEWSSTAND FOR YOUR COPY-- NOW ON SALE!



IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE, NO IT'S A SUPER-HERO! HE'S REALLY FLYING!

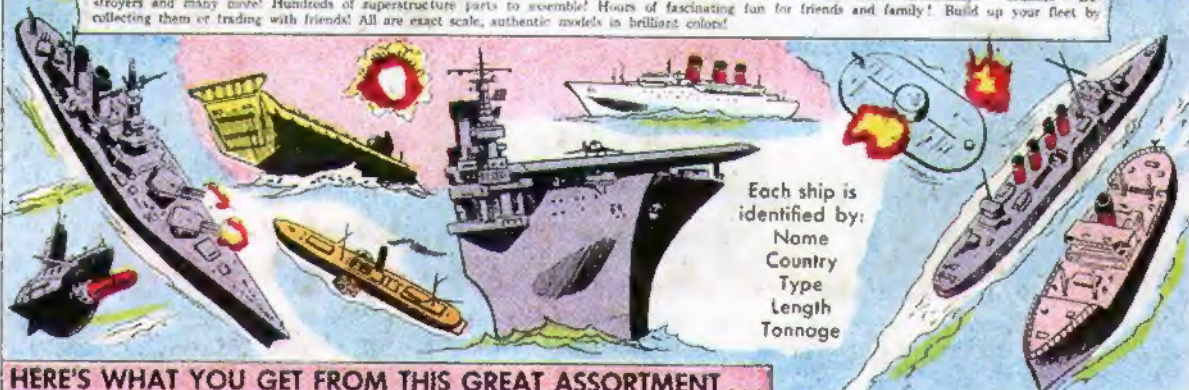
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YEAH, THEY ARE PRETTY SQUARE, LIKE A SQUARE, BUT THEY GET TO YOU!

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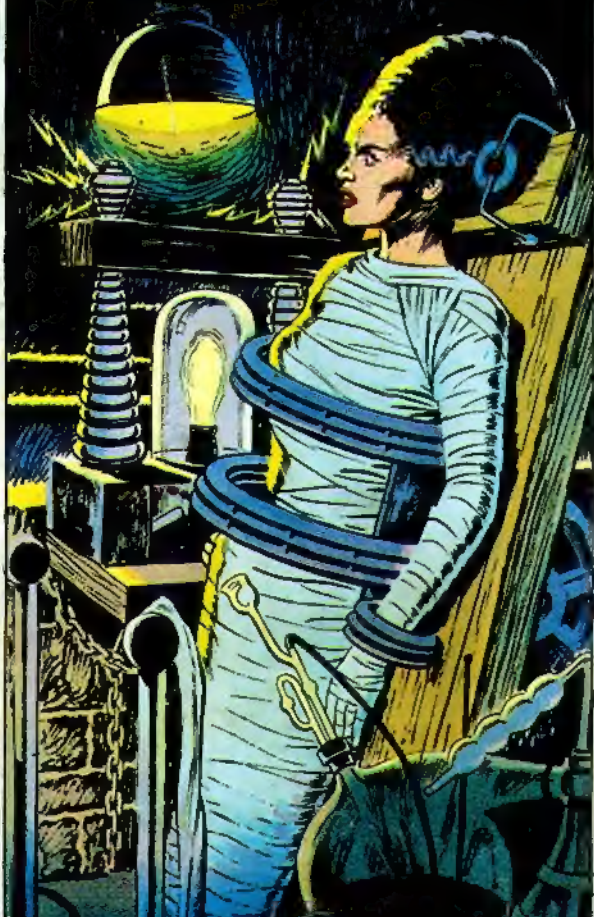
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